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WEEKLY



BULLETIN

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Volume 21

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 4, 1947

No. 44

# GREAT LAKES DISTRICT SEMINARS

By E. D. PIERRE

*A report in The Bulletin of Indiana Society of Architects*

(Note by Editor:—I tried to trim this to the physical limitations of the Bulletin, but by gosh, I just couldn't eliminate more than two sentences, so here it is in Ed's own inimitable fashion).

When Hundreds of Architects, Draftsmen and Students sit attentively for two days in three hour hitches while the World Series is going on, there must be something to this thing they call a Seminar.

The Seminars were well planned as they should be, thanks to the direction of an able leader Ken Black, Regional Director.

The Seminar opened in the Van Cleve Hotel Ballroom promptly at 9:30. Merritt and I were only one-half hour late, E.S.T.

Mr. Welch was busy explaining that the department stores can afford .0843 cents per square foot of automobile parking space for every good-looking blond in the Cosmetic Dept., or something equally as technical. Ken knows all about the parking problem, especially as it applies to Grand Rapids. At least, they have a parking authority that employs a planning consultant to integrate parking with the City plan. Morris Ketchum, the second speaker, took us through the development of the specialty shop from Cleopatra to Lamour.

Mr. Cutler of Nela Park demonstrated store lighting from the viewpoint of engineering and research. There is an opening at Nela Park for a smart young architect.

Walter Blucher compared the status of planning legislation in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. Indiana is ahead at the end of the first quarter. In Indiana, he says, all public improvements must conform to a master plan—that's good news!

Ernest Pickering of the University of Cincinnati enlightened us on the archi-

tect's place in urban planning. Off the record the mostest and the bestest students at Cincinnati come from Indiana.

Sherwood Reeder of the Citizen's Planning Association of Cincinnati spoke on the relationship of housing to urban redevelopment. The redevelopment plan of Indianapolis leads by a big margin.

We'll skip the next speaker for a moment because I want to use him for polishing off. That's Alden Dow of Midland, Michigan, if you don't know.

George Fred Keck of Chicago on deck tells us that Socrates discovered the philosophy of the Solar House—I think modest George helped put it over.

If you haven't seen Macy's Santa Claus in that "34th Street" picture, you won't know what I'm talking about when I give top honors to Alden Dow. Alden took us on a word and picture train from the beginning clear up to now, without even mentioning God and Frank Lloyd Wright. Alden's remarks were fine, but his pictures were super-fine. Out of this world. He leads off with the serenity of a blue sky, with restless white clouds and we didn't land on our feet for half an hour.

Then came the land below—movement of all kinds—waves, worms, drifts, and even men. There were closeups of beautiful flowers, each little petal fighting to be more beautiful than the other—fighting for individualism and the right to grow. All other natural forms crystal snow drifts, waves, restlessly pounding on the shore line of our ever changing stream. Action everywhere. Each inner force trying to express itself and nature growing wild.

Then came a new force and an insect landed with both feet on the petal of a flower—this was to represent the entrance

of man into the picture.

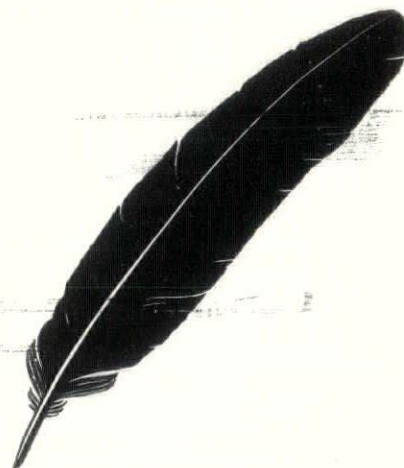
Alden told of the reactions of the human nerve centers and how they react to color and form. Alden likes red, yellow and blue. The picture of Alden's home in Midland, with children hopping from concrete toadstools to concrete toadstools in the lagoon—my, but it was hard to tell where nature ended and man's work began.

In his illustration of organic design, he employed a busy little spider and his magnificent web.

Alden finished up by saying he didn't think we would get far in building spirited Cities without the intuitive sense of the architect—the master planner.

I had the pleasure of sitting next to Dave Burns after the Cocktail Hour—at the Friday banquet—Fish! Merritt had gingerale because he sat at the head table, and other reasons.

See SEMINARS, Page 2





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### SEMINARS—from Page 1

Of course, the funniest guy in the whole world was there—Roger Allen. It was worth the price of admission to see the dignified President of the Institute, Mr. Douglas William Orr go all out for Roger. I had a hard time to keep from laughing myself.

I think it would be fitting to close with a few words about the master of Poise, Polish and Dignity—Mr. Orr. He has a swell sense of humor a nicely balanced sense of values and he is mighty interested in advancing the Institute.

### My Impressions of Dayton, ala John Gunther:

1. Believe it or not, the Main Street of Dayton is twenty feet wider than the Main Street of Indianapolis.
2. Believe it or not, the approaches to the City are as bad as in Indianapolis.
3. The Streets are cleaner, believe me.
4. Its vehicular and pedestrian traffic is orderly. Score, Dayton 100, Indianapolis 6, Why?
5. Courtesy in the hotels and public places a little on the brusque side.

## DISCUSSION SERIES

### Main Library, Detroit, Fall, 1947

#### ACTION IN OTHER CITIES . . . SOME IDEAS FOR DETROIT

"What are the blocks between plans and action?"

"Can we improve Detroit without the active interest of industry and business?"

"Do Detroit hospitals realize their stake in the elimination of slums and blight?"

How many times have you heard these questions, plus a fourth: "What is being done about these problems in other cities?"

These questions are being answered in other cities, which is the reason these three topics have been chosen for this sixth Discussion Series sponsored by the Detroit Public Library and the Citizens' Housing and Planning Council.

We do not say that the answers being worked out in Chicago and Pittsburgh and London are necessarily the right answers for Detroit. What we do say is that the story of three plans and three projects in three other cities should stimulate us to ask questions here in Detroit, and seek our own answers.

In this annual series of discussions new ideas are presented, as well as new projects that have been found practical in other cities. It is good that while no specific plan from another city has ever been adopted in Detroit, action has resulted from several of these meetings.

These meetings are planned to provoke thought—so as you listen to speakers from other cities, think hard about Detroit, and raise three questions with yourself and the friends and neighbors with whom you talk: (1) Would any of these ideas and plans be useful in Detroit? (2) What are the blocks that keep us from action for a better city? (3) What is MY answer for Detroit to the basic problems discussed.

The next program in the series will be

the second, the first having been held on October 29.

II—THE USES OF REGIONAL PLANNING, November 5, Wednesday at 7:45 p.m.

Walter J. Gessell, Treasurer, Citizens' Housing and Planning Council, will open the meeting.

Chairman: Willis H. Hall, Manager, Industrial and Tax Research Department, Detroit Board of Commerce.

Speaker: Park H. Martin, Executive Director, Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Pittsburgh.

Co-sponsors: Ann Arbor City Planning Commission, East Detroit Planning Commission, Fitzgerald Civic Council, Highland Park Community Council, New Baltimore Planning Commission, Washtenaw County Planning Commission, Willow Run Area Planning Committee. Other co-sponsors to be announced.

III—HOSPITALS AND SLUM CLEARANCE, November 12, Wednesday at 7:45 p. m.

Dr. Alfred H. Whittaker, 2nd Vice-President, Citizens' Housing and Planning Council, will open the meeting.

Chairman: Mildred Riese, Superintendent, Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Speaker: Reginald R. Isaacs, Director of Planning, Michael Reese Hospital Planning Staff, Chicago.

The Question: Most hospitals in large cities are surrounded by blight and slums,

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and Detroit hospitals are no exception. With many of them planning expansion programs for the next decade, the first question they must answer is this: should a hospital flee the surrounding blight to a new tract of land large enough for its total expansion needs; or should it develop a practical program for redevelopment at its present site with all this involves in land assembly, financing, and the necessary co-operation from other public and private institutions in the area? Hospitals, incidentally, are not the only institutions confronted with this problem.

Michael Reese Hospital, having decided several years ago on the latter course, is proceeding with its plans for an over-all redevelopment of seven square miles on

Chicago's south side, fronting Lake Michigan. Co-operating with the hospital are the Illinois Institute of Technology; leaders of the Negro community; the Chicago Housing Authority; the Metropolitan Housing Council; the Catholic Archdiocese; the C.I.O.; the A.F.L.; St. Luke's, Chicago Memorial and Mercy Hospitals; the Illinois Central Railroad; three manufacturers and one business in the area.

The Speaker: Biggest initial job of the Michael Reese Planning Staff, headed by Reginald R. Isaacs, was the persuade the many racial, religious and political elements of the neighborhood to work together in the newly established South Side Planning Board. The young man who accomplished this almost single handed, is Reginald R. Isaacs who, when he first took the job, was so young that he grew a mustache to make him acceptable to the sixty-five-year-old institution which was his new employer.

Mr. Isaacs first used a 1 square in an architectural office at the age of fourteen, later was engaged in architectural, housing and city planning offices in Minneapolis, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia and Syracuse. He has a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Minnesota, a Master's degree in Architecture from Harvard, has studied at M.I.T. and at the University of Chicago.

Like the two speakers who precede him, Mr. Isaacs will have much to say that is pertinent to Detroit's problems because, again, the situation is similar.

### NEW STUDENT OFFICERS

The University of Michigan Student Branch of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. has elected officers for the fall semester, as follows:

Harvey C. Allison, President  
Edwin R. Larsen, Vice-President  
Irene Rogers, Secretary  
R. E. Gustafson, Treasurer

The new class of eligible students is showing a marked interest in the organization. Last year there were fifty members and this year's group will probably exceed that number.

Members are privileged to attend Detroit Chapter meetings; the dinners of two are complimentary and the others are at half price.

Each year the Detroit Chapter offers a prize to the leading student member, in the College of Architecture and Design, the stipend being \$75. While this is a small amount, it is intended to defray a part of the student's expenses in travel to some places of interest to make studies of architecture. Detroit Chapter members will recall occasions when the Chapter met in Ann Arbor and the recipient of the Chapter student prize reported on his use of the fund, illustrating his talk with slides.

### CORDNER TO NEW MEXICO

G. Frank Cordner, A.I.A., formerly of Detroit who has been with the Housing and Home Financing Agency, Public Housing Administration, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, has resigned and left Puerto Rico permanently. His reasons: the waning Federal Housing Construction program, and a desire to reestablish himself in the States.

Mr. Charles Lawrence, Director, Region II, PHA, plans to have Francis X. Servaites, of Cleveland succeed Cordner.

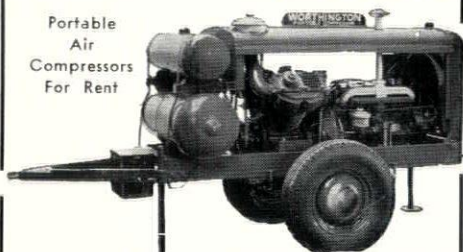
Frank and Mrs. Cordner sailed recently on the Waterman Line for New Orleans, from where they drove to Santa Fe, New Mexico. In this latter place Frank will probably go into the private contracting business with a friend. We wish Frank every success in business and hope that his new location will prove to be a pleasant place for him and his family.

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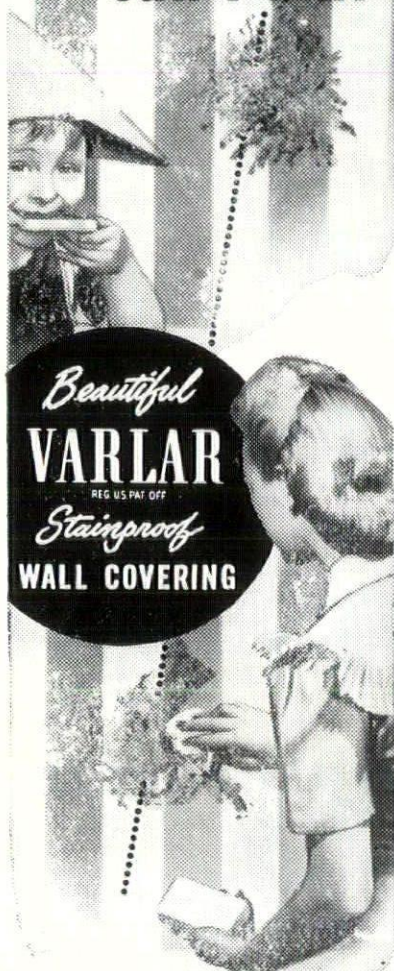
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## NOTED FINNS VISIT DETROIT

Mr. Harry W. Schreck, architect and Mr. Esko K. Leinon, Secretary of the Bank of Finland were in Detroit on Oct. 17, on a tour of this country, studying bank buildings, as the first step in an important program for the Bank of Finland.

The two were entertained by Roy C. Akitt, A.I.A., of Detroit, architect for the National Bank of Detroit; and Mr. and Mrs. Eliel Saarinen, with whom the two were acquainted.

The distinguished visitors were much impressed with what they saw in Detroit, and expressed delight with the reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Saarinen.

## PRESIDENT BENNETT REAPPOINTS COMMITTEES

Wells I. Bennett, FAIA, President of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., has announced the reappointment of Chapter committees for the year 1947-48. Present officers and committees are now beginning the second year of their terms of office. It has been the custom for them to serve two years because of the time required to become organized and to get under way with their assignments.

## FISHER & SIMPSON STUDYING CHURCHES

Harold Fisher and Lewis W. Simpson, Detroit Architects are on tour of the East, studying churches of New England Boston, New York, Washington, Virginia and other localities. Simpson has just returned from Europe where he studied again the churches of England and the continent. Since his return he has become associated with Fisher.

## FILM ON BRICK-MAKING

The Streater Brick Company plant at Streator, Illinois has been selected by Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc., as the subject for an educational film which will eventually be shown in this country and internationally. The film will be entitled, "Brick Manufacturing in the Modern Manner."

The basis of selecting this plant was on its first-rated modern production. The recommendation for the selection was from R. K. Bursh, director of the Ceramics Department of the University of Illinois. Five thousand feet of film was shot and this will be edited to one thousand feet of exhibition sound track film.

**WANTED**—Experienced architectural draftsman. Arthur Des Rosiers, A.I.A., 15850 James Couzens Highway, Detroit 21, Mich. Telephone UNiversity 4-2500.

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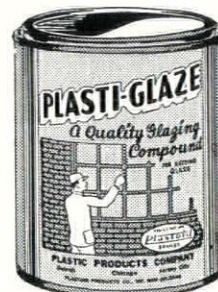
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VOLUME 21

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 11, 1947

NO. 45

## Wallace Harrison, Noted Architect of UN Center, To Address ESD on November 19, 1947

The main endeavor of the Board of Design Consultants and the Associate Architects and Engineers was to create an efficient and attractive headquarters for the world representatives, a home that would meet present requirements and anticipate future needs, and serve as a workshop where the United Nations could forge a program for lasting peace. How the plans for this headquarters were developed will be described at the regular ESD meeting on November 19th by Wallace K. Harrison, Chief Architect and Director of Planning for the UN Center.

The UN Center, particularly its location on the East River, has been a subject of much controversy and the proposed development includes many problems of both architecture and engineering. Mr. Harrison, one of the outstanding architects of this country, was head of the international group of experts responsible for the planning of the center. He will disclose many of the preliminary studies and steps that determined the selections of the final scheme submitted in the Report to the General Assembly. With the aid of slides, he will also describe the proposed methods for construction and the coordination of site development with development of the surrounding area and approaches by the City of New York.

### Harrison Appointed by Mayor

Mr. Harrison's interest in the United Nations coming to New York began some months ago when he was appointed by Mayor O'Dwyer as a member of the New York City Committee to help find a site for the new world organization. Mr. Harrison had already been employed by William Zeckendorf of Webb and Knapp as architect for the proposed "city within a city," which Mr. Zeckendorf was planning for the East River mid-town district. Mr. Zeckendorf, Nelson A. Rockefeller, and Mr. Harrison were working on a possible means of securing this site for the United Nations at a reasonable cost

when John D. Rockefeller, Jr., made his offer to present it to the world organization.

Mr. Harrison studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris and at the American Academy in Rome while he held the Rotch Traveling Scholarship. He served in the first World War as a Naval Lieutenant and later became Associate Architect for the Board of Education of the City of New York. He then became an Associate Professor in the School of Architecture at Columbia University before joining the architectural firm of Helmlé, Corbett and Harrison in 1927.

From 1938 to 1941 he was Associate

Professor in the School of Architecture at Yale University. In 1941 he joined the Office of Inter-American affairs where he remained until 1945 when he resigned as Director of the Office to return to his architectural firm in New York which is now Harrison and Abramovitz.

He was one of the architects of Rockefeller Center. Among other buildings Mr. Harrison executed are Fort Greene Houses; Clinton Hill, housing project for the Equitable Life Assurance Society; Avila Hotel, Caracas, Venezuela. At present he is working on the proposed Time and Life building, Aluminum Company of America building, and Idlewild Airport.

JOINT MEETING  
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NOVEMBER 19, 1947

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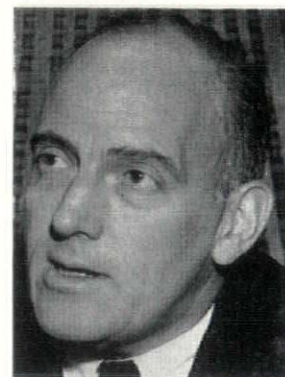
SPEAKER **WALLACE K. HARRISON**

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St. James Episcopal Church,  
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A church is one of the focal points of a community. It ranks in importance with public buildings, although means for its erection must be procured from the denomination which it serves and not public funds. If, however, a community or a portion of it, can be made to see that it serves their particular area, outside help may sometimes be forthcoming. An attractive church can well be a center for community life. Thinking about how a church can serve not only its congregation but its community as well, certain conclusions may be drawn as to needs and intent of the Parish House and Church.

First, the land area must be sufficient for the needs of the next 50 or 75 years, so that expansion, if necessary, can be carried out without dwarfing the proportion of the whole pattern. Then, one must arbitrarily think in terms of how large a parish ought to be and certainly try not to go beyond the limit set. Rather plan a domestic set-up which the mother church could foster and partially support by its clergy staff and funds. The reason for this suggestion is to work more efficiently the needs at home. It is considered reasonable to plan a parish of not more than 1200 communicants which would take, at that, a considerable professional staff to administer properly. This figure is suggested by the National Church headquarters.

The church itself ought not be stylized Gothic or Colonial or Georgian etc., remembering that the Christian Church has always been keenly aware of its place in the times in which it lived. If contemporary lines are suggested, unfavorable comment is usually the reply. Such comments are understandable in that they stem from lack of knowledge. Many of them will conjure in their minds some bizarre structure, which is neither pleasant to look at nor representative of the golden mean line in the field. Great strides forward have been made in the institutional and manufacturing areas where honest materials and modern construction methods have been used. Pure Gothic style went out with the middle ages and the disposition of Georgian and Colonial has been the same in their era. In the last half a century, a church was built not with a flavor of the past in its lines but with every piece of material speaking its message of the past. Christianity is much more than a movement with a past.

This brings us to the next point,

what should Christianity portray in its structure? Christianity is a "way of life." It has its roots in the past and receives encouragement from the past to solve its problems in the present. But the present in Christianity is even more important because it is for you and me, now. Its vitality is in the present and its hopes are for the future. Thus, it is logical to assume that a church structure should be as much a part of the 20th century as a public building or institution. The very spirit of our religion forbids, in a sense, the erection of a building which is a beautiful facsimile of the past, no matter what has been the practice up till now.

Christianity is simple, clean, honest, true and beautiful, and its buildings should not tell a different story. Today we have steel and concrete and plastics. There is no reason to expect a church to be built as the artisans built a church in the middle ages. We ought to use the materials and methods we have at hand.

The building can be so planned as to allow for expansion. With that in mind, it to be so placed on the plot that it will balance the proportion for the many years to come. A porch can be so constructed along ample lines that a partition can be removed at the rear of the nave and pews added. If further expansion were necessary the church so constructed that a wall could be removed at a minimum of expense. If we were to bear in mind the domestic mission idea, a church originally constructed for 400 sittings and with an ample porch could be expanded to seat another 100, its maximum efficiency has been reached. The building should be simple in its lines with none of the ornamentation customarily associated with bygone eras.

Inside beginning with the sanctuary, the same simplicity should be preserved. The altar should be comfortable in size so that the clergy do not feel somehow that God gets the smallest space and the congregation the largest. It should be elevated so that no matter where one stood, the cross would reach above the head of the clergy. The candelabra and vases would be in the same proportion, of course. The sanctuary itself should have no wall ornamentation like credence tables or furniture like bishop's and clergy stalls. All of these can be recessed into the wall, thus preserving the spaciousness of the area. The altar ought to be away from the wall far enough to allow the altar guild to get in behind to place vases, office lights and the like on a re-table which is secured to the wall. The altar table itself should never be adorned with any articles except the hangings at any time. A number of

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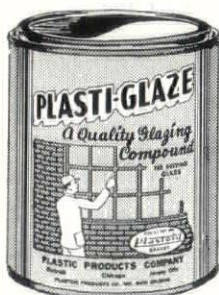
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things can be done to heighten the dramatic effect of the sanctuary where the chief service of the church is celebrated. A dossal curtain with riddle posts may be erected and a baldacchino or canopy over the altar. A balance of wall on one side of the sanctuary and windows on the other wall would heighten the effect with artificial illumination equalizing light area. If a mural were possible, that could be added in place of the dossal curtain. Murals deteriorate with time and have to be touched up which is an expensive process with the artist doing the work. A reredos is another alternative with none of the upkeep of the mural. This is an expensive process also either in wood or stone.

The chancel should be elevated but not as high as the altar and sanctuary. It should be ample in proportion, being able to seat about 30 in the choir. An ambulatory should be provided on each side to facilitate communicants leaving the altar rail. The passage between the choir pews should be wide enough to be able to present pageants and hold weddings comfortably without removing pews. Good lighting also must be provided. The organ console ought to be planned so that the organist has a full view of the choir for direction.

The nave ought to be as wide as the chancel so that no matter where one sat in the nave a full view would be provided. A wide center aisle and comfortable side aisles should be provided. Space between the pews is important so that the tall people may sit comfortably. The interior and furnishings should be of a warm, light color, preserving a pleasant atmosphere where few could catch up on their weekend sleep, all other things being equal. Too many interiors are sleep-inducing. During the last decade stained-glass artists have become so scarce that good work can no longer be created. Unless things change radically in the next few years to come, it would not seem feasible to count on this being included in the new church. Good glass treated to give off a pleasant glow would be much more satisfactory in the new building. If costs are reasonable some kind of an air circulation system or air conditioning might be considered. Acoustics are important and special care ought to be given to this problem.

The porch should have as few steps up to it as possible. Older people of the congregation and semi-invalids should be considered. Doors leading into the nave and a screen can be provided to insure quietness at worship and absorb the noise caused by late-comers. The Baptistry can be placed in a alcove off the porch, closed off and heated. It should be placed in the center of space and raised high enough so the family could gather around in a circle about the font. The platform for the font should be wide enough so the officiant cannot fall off and break a leg and injure the baby.

In our next issue Reverend Towne will discuss "The Parish House."

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**G. L. HARVEY**

George L. Harvey, A.I.A., 77, prominent Port Huron architect, died in Port Huron Hospital on October 26, after a short illness.

Born in Detroit, Oct. 12, 1870, he went to Port Huron at the age of 21, after studying architecture for ten years while a draftsman in the Detroit office of Mason and Rice.

Early in life he became interested in civic, fraternal, church and military affairs. He served 24 years in the Michigan National Guards. During the Spanish-American War he rose from the rank of sergeant to adjutant of the 33rd Michigan Voluntary Infantry regiment. He took part in the Battle of Acquadore, Cuba, shortly after the regiment landed at Siboney.

He was a past master of Port Huron Lodge No. 58, F. & A. M., having served as worshipful master, and was a member of Port Huron Commandery, Knights Templar. He also held high offices in the State organization of Masons.

Mr. Harvey was a former member of the State Board of Registration for Architects and Engineers, the Michigan Society of Architects, The American Institute and its Detroit Chapter. He was mayor of Port Huron for two terms, from 1934 to 1937, and a former member of the City Park Commission. He was a charter member of the Rotary Club, secretary of the Community Service Board, and took an active interest in the Boy Scouts movement, and was a junior warden of Grace Episcopal Church.

George L. Harvey's funeral, held in Port Huron on October 29, was one of the most impressive ever held in that city.

AN OPPORTUNITY for a young architect who wants to become established—to take over the office of the late George L. Harvey, in Port Huron, Mich. Mr. Harvey had considerable work under way, and other projected work. Communicate with Mr. Harvey's son-in-law, Mr. Mosher Seeley, Port Huron.

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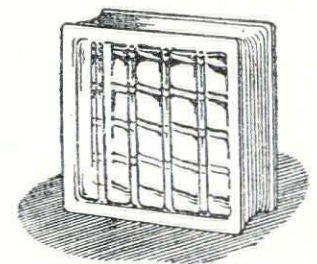
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Volume 21

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 18, 1947

No. 46

## THE PARISH CHURCH — (PART TWO)

BY THE REVEREND HAROLD TOWNE,  
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

EDITOR'S NOTE: In our last issue Reverend Towne discussed the Church. In this article he takes up the Church House.

The ideas expressed in both articles are to be incorporated in the planning of a new building for his congregation, plans for which are being prepared by the firm of Harley, Ellington and Day, Inc., Architects and Engineers.

### PARISH HOUSE

The parish house should follow the same clean, honest lines of the church. It will probably be multi-storied. Bearing in mind, more than one floor above the first makes it difficult for older people to climb the stairs. The use of the parish house is about four times greater than the church by actual count, thus more money ought to be spent here than in the church, this based upon need and use. Right at construction, all the essentials ought to be provided, the luxuries can come later.

An adequate office for a secretary with room for an addressograph, mimeograph and like machines is necessary along with a proper washroom. Two other offices ought to be provided for the Rector and Assistant. Another might be provided for a Religious Education Director. A lounge might be planned for larger meetings of the General Guild, Confirmation Classes and Sunday School Staff meetings. This room could be used for parish teas and receptions too. Storage closets for the guilds can be included too. A kitchen big enough to prepare meals for 200-250 people with plenty of room for the necessary equipment ought to be included; an auditorium seating 400 people and feeding about 200 included. As we shall have to worship in this large room for a time, a stage should be planned which can be used for a place to put an altar, organ and choir. On the first floor most of this could be included.

On the second floor, classrooms and guild rooms should be provided. The number of classrooms ought to be around a dozen. A church school of 600 is not improbable even in the next few years. More than likely, two sessions will be the regular thing. The classrooms ought to be airy and pleasant and light. They should be ample enough for classes of 15 and teacher. Some built in blackboards ought not to be overlooked. A chapel big enough for one hundred children ought to be thought out so as to provide the facilities that we offer at the present. This could be done on the second floor or basement wherever it worked out best.

The basement should have the usual heating plant so planned that the church or parish house could be cut off to save heating bills. Quarters ought to be included for a Sexton and Assistant if possible. In a community where most of the homes are private, places for a member of the Staff are hard to get. It provides an addition to the salary we offer without costing us more than a little light and heat. From authoritative sources comes a statement that most children cannot travel more than a mile from their homes to activities. As Birmingham grows, we may find a fine opportunity to become a community center in our area with the new high school on our street. While many children seem to have cars, the present Community House would be too far removed for the new developments bound to come out Maple Road.

Thus our building could be very useful to them. Our basement could be developed into fine recreation rooms and craft spaces should the occasion arise.

The uses of the Church and Parish House are entirely different and therefore should be separate from each other and perhaps connected by a cloister of some sort. Parking space for 80-100 cars off the street ought to be included too. With the grounds we have available an outdoor picnic ground might be included as well as an enclosed area near the church for out-door weddings.

To summarize, simple design is in keeping with the Christian way of life. Our buildings can be erected for the glory of God without being ornate or copies of something we have seen in books or our minds. Errors are easy enough to make and if we are not careful, we may be responsible for many of them. Our buildings ought to be functionally correct, bright and cheerful, where full vision is enjoyed and where the spoken word can be heard by all and where reasonable comfort may be enjoyed. We will then have provided for our people a teaching church both outside and inside and a working parish house. We will have provided, I am sure, a model church which can well be an inspiration to the Diocese and the general church. We will have a church that will make people stop and come in to admire the courage of a congregation to act in faith to carry out the best things for all. St. James can well be in the future, a modern church in a modern world.



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## SIDNEY L. STRAUSS

New York Society Convention  
is saddened

The New York State Association of Architects concluded its three-day convention at the Commodore Hotel in New York City on Friday, October 24.

As reported by Harold T. Brinkerhoff, A.I.A., the Convention was a great success until saddened by the sudden death of the Chairman, Sidney L. Strauss.

Mr. Strauss had presided at the meeting of the society on Thursday, and seemed in good health. He retired late and when an attempt was made to arouse him, he was found to have died during the night.

Born in New York, a son of the late David Strauss and Mrs. Nellie Strauss, he entered the architectural field twenty years ago and had specialized on the design of industrial and business structures. He was a former president of the New York Society of Architects, and a member of the Queens Lodge of Elks.

Sidney Strauss, who was only 47 years of age, will be pleasantly remembered by many A.I.A. members for having contributed so much to Institute conventions. He had regularly been a delegate from the New York Chapter, and his talks from the floor of the conventions were always to the point. His many friends will mourn the loss of a staunch friend of the profession.

## MAUL & LENTZ MOVE

The firm of Maul & Lentz has moved its office from 1257 David Whitney Building, in Detroit, to 1222 Michigan Building, Detroit 26. The firm has been in the David Whitney Building for many years.

## MEETING

### MICHIGAN CHAPTER

### American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers

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Horace H. Rackham  
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Mr. A. E. Stacey, Vice President of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers and Vice President of Buensod-Stacey Air Conditioning, Inc., will address the meeting.

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**PARKER PROMOTES RANKIN**

The Parker Rust Proof Company, Detroit, Michigan announces the promotion of J. F. Rankin to the position of comptroller, which was recently held by H. J. Strasler, who died on October 3.

Mr. Rankin has been assistant comptroller for the past five years, and prior to that was assistant manager of the Federal tax department of the Union Guardian Trust Company.

**MR. GIBSON ILL**

Michigan architects will remember with much pleasure the appearance before the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., and the other chapters of Mr. Charles Gibson, of California, who spoke to us on lighting of school buildings, through the cooperation of the State of Michigan, Mr. Wilfred Clapp, of the Department of Public Instruction at Lansing and Gus Langius.

Mr. Gibson is now confined to the Lavina Sanitarium in Pasadena, Calif., seriously ill. The Michigan Society of Architects has sent flowers to him, with a message, wishing him speedy recovery. He put a great deal into his talks throughout Michigan and it is believed that many will want to write him.

**BUILDING DEPT. MOVES**

The Department of Buildings and Safety Engineering of the City of Detroit has moved to the south east corner of Jefferson Avenue and Bates Street, in Detroit. The building was originally occupied by the Detroit United Railways' office and interurban station. Entrance is from Jefferson Avenue and the Department has much more space than formerly at Clinton and Raynor Streets. Commissioner Joseph P. Wolff invites architects to not wait until they want a permit but to pay the Department a visit and see for themselves what the new quarters are like.

**GOOD NEWS FROM  
GEORGE HAAS**

Frank Wright has received a note from George Haas, who is now at his home in Miami, Fla. He states that he has now been home from the hospital for about a month, is permitted to be out of bed about half the time. The doctors state that with continued improvement he should be able to go to his office for short intervals in another month.

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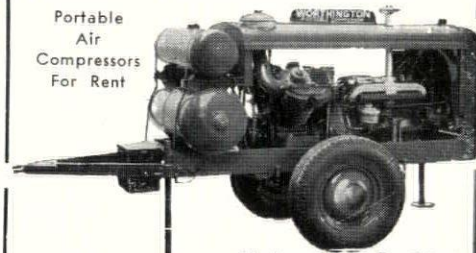
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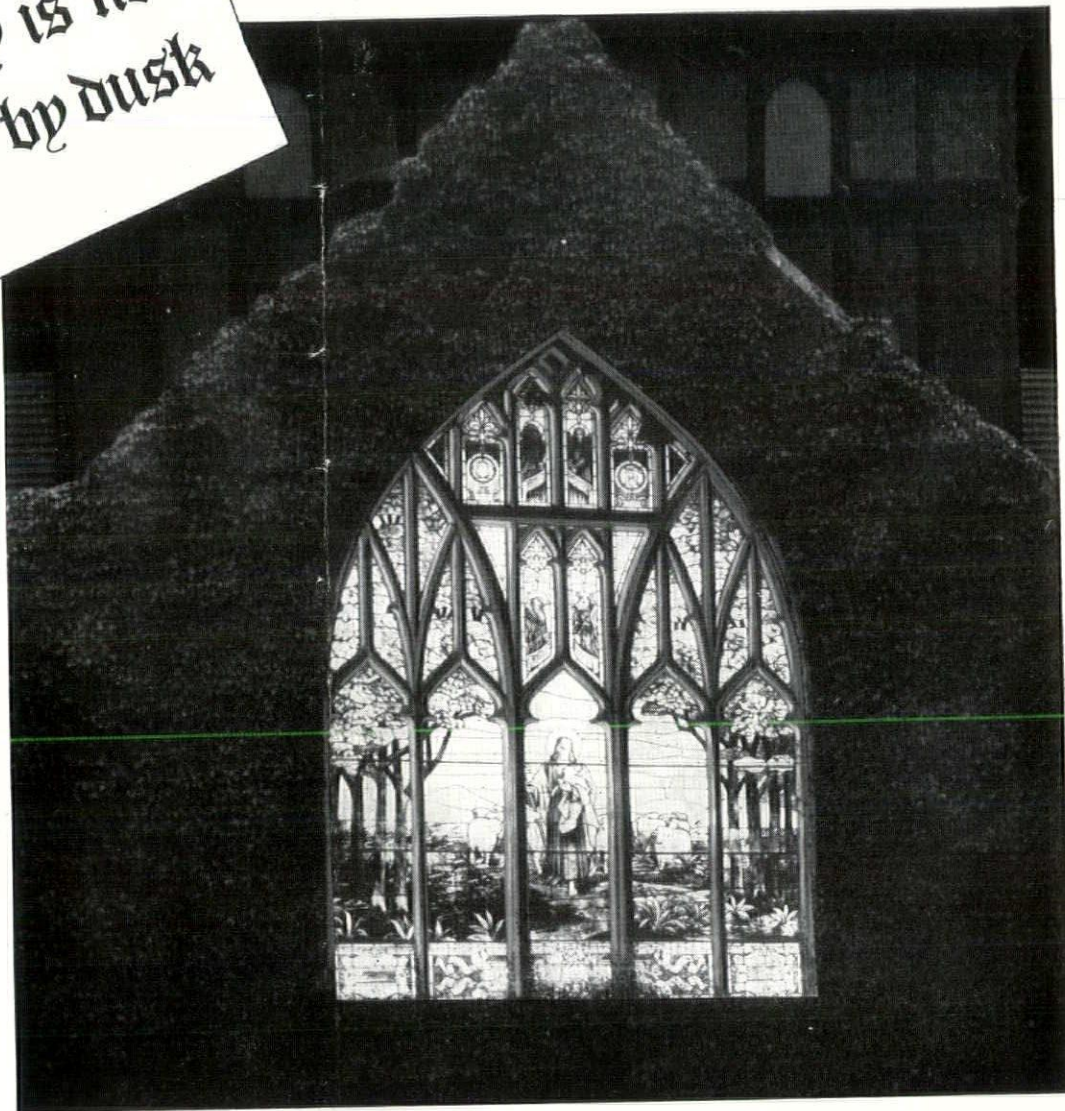
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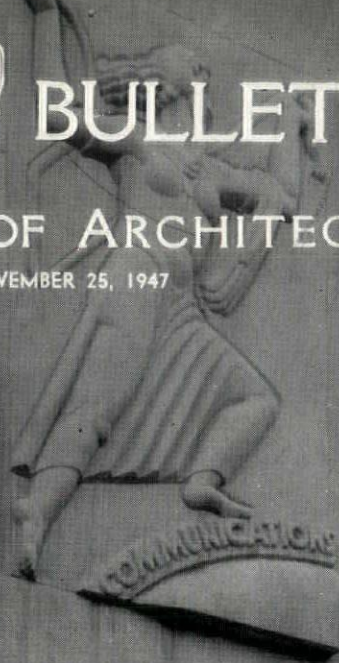


# WEEKLY BULLETIN



## MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 47, NOVEMBER 25, 1947



MICHIGAN BELL  
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*Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., Architects & Engineers*





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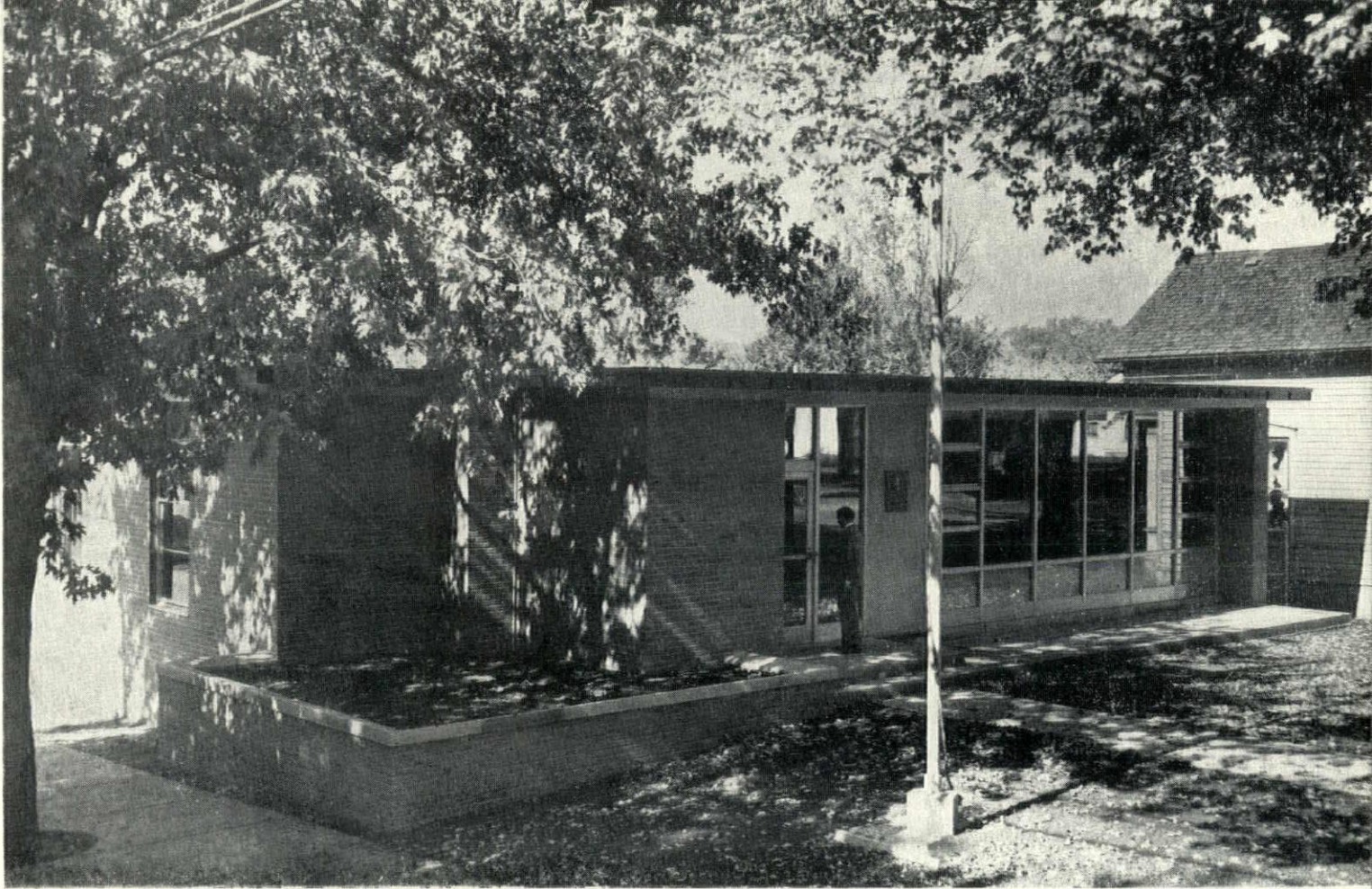
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## Why Is A Telephone Building?

By AUBREY H. ROBSON

Engineer of Buildings—Michigan Bell Telephone Company

Why is a telephone building?

With a deep bow to Gertrude Stein, the above question which might seem ungrammatical or obtuse to the average person would be perfectly understood by telephone architects and engineers and answered with hard-headed facts.

Telephone buildings are different, of necessity, from other structures and grow more different each year.

Take the following points for example:

(1) The architectural style of telephone buildings must be "traditional," "up-to-the-minute," and "ageless" all at the same time. It must be in keeping with the surrounding property if a dominant design is definitely established. Further, it should continue to be in good taste for many years.

Another reason for choosing the style of a telephone building carefully is that such structures cannot be abandoned readily for strong roots of underground cables hold it firmly in place, and relocation of the telephone system's "nerve fibres" is a major operation.

ON THE COVER—Detail of entrance of Ann Arbor Commercial Building, Michigan Bell Telephone Co. Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., are the architects and engineers.

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Aubrey H. Robson has been associated with building engineering since his graduation from the University of Michigan with a Master's degree in mechanical engineering in 1930.



That same year he started with the Michigan Bell Telephone company as a building inspector. After many years in the plant department as a wire chief, engineer and supervisor, Robson was promoted to his present post of engineer of buildings in 1943.

done readily for strong roots of underground cables hold it firmly in place, and relocation of the telephone system's "nerve fibres" is a major operation.

(2) The locations of telephone buildings are determined largely by the physical shape and size of the community. In order to keep the telephone line network efficiently distributed, a

Figure 1

FIRST OF KIND—The Michigan Bell Telephone company's first contemporary style building has been constructed at Fenton. It also is the first telephone building in the state to employ radiant heating. Roof is a concrete slab as is the floor. There is no basement.

central office should be located in the approximate center of the community it serves. In most cases, this means a location in the "downtown" or main shopping center where property values are the highest.

Despite this requirement, the telephone company usually builds a block or two off the main street. Not only does this permit the purchase of larger, more economical building sites but it reserves main street property for retail merchandising stores.

(3) Economy is of paramount importance in the construction and maintenance of a telephone building. In order to keep rates for service as low as possible so that the greatest number of people can subscribe, the telephone industry attempts to limit its construction and equipment dollars to the objective of providing good service when and where wanted.

Also, the telephone business is closely regulated by governmental agencies. This is as it should be, but the planning and engineering of telephone buildings consequently must be more careful. Generally, only tried and true methods can be employed for the penalty of error is more serious than with ordinary construction.

(4) Specifications of telephone build-



ings are more exacting. Columns cannot be a fraction of an inch out of place, and floors must be absolutely level. The Bell System provides service to about 35,000,000 subscribers. Switching equipment, although custom tailored to fit particular exchanges, must be mass produced to meet the constantly growing demand for service and to replace worn out or obsolete units.

This means that central office equipment produced by Western Electric, manufacturing and supply unit of the Bell System, must fit into buildings erected in Detroit, San Francisco, and Smith's Corner, Iowa.

Michigan Bell currently is engaged in the largest construction program in its history.

Started shortly after V-J Day in

1945, the program will cost approximately \$220,000,000 by the time it is completed in 1950.

New buildings or major additions to existing structures, although only a part of this total figure, are essential in the overall program. New cable is just so much cold metal without switching equipment, and switching equipment is worthless unless housed in the correct type of building.

Approximately 125 building projects are required under the post-war program. Several of these have been completed or are nearing completion and many more now are under way. In the two years just ending, more than \$80,000,000 has been spent in buildings and equipment.

New telephone buildings going up

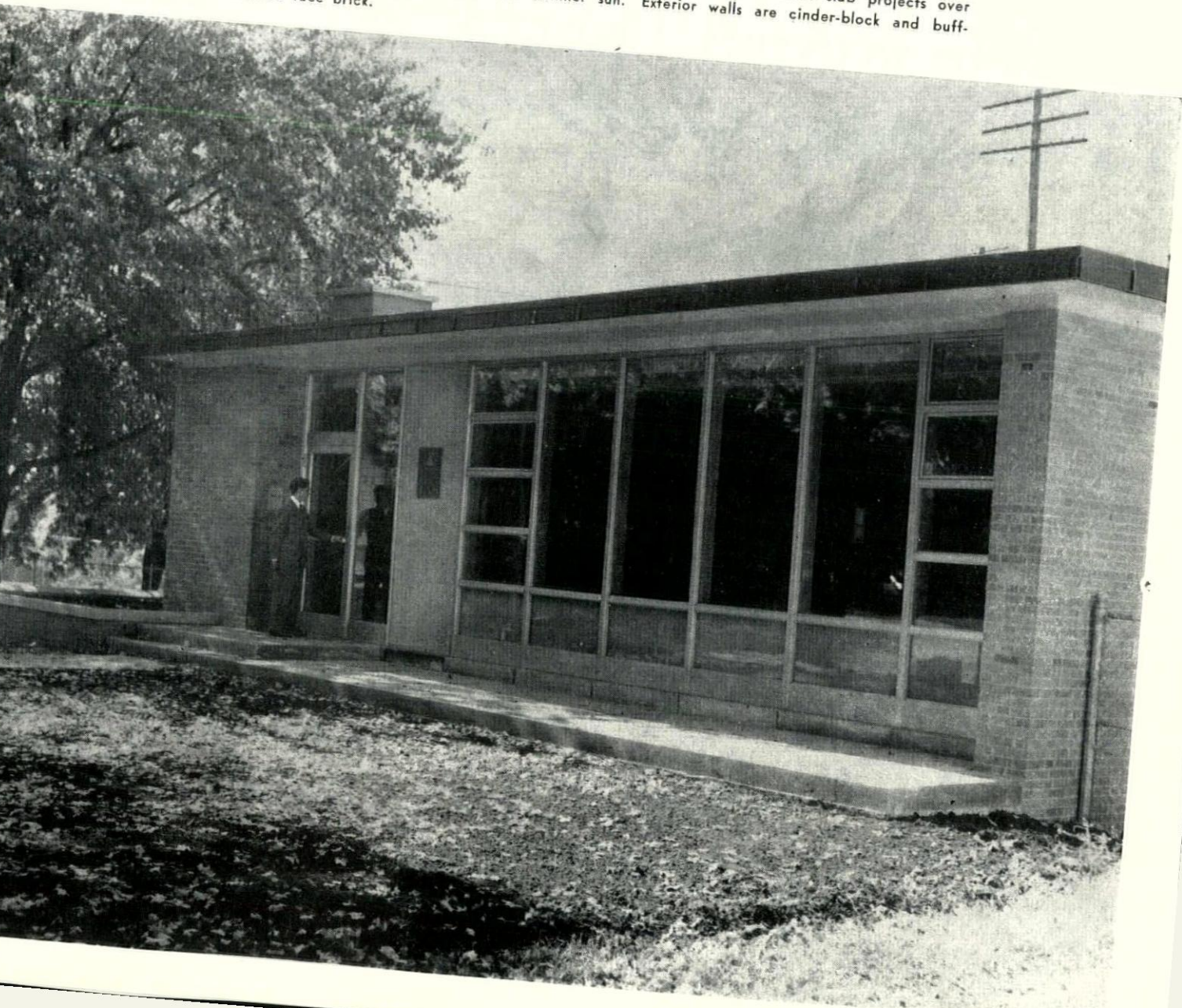
reflect 70 years of experience the industry has accumulated since Alexander Graham Bell's first crude instrument scratched out, "Mr. Watson, come here, I need you!"

In this period when most large companies are embarked on enormous construction programs it is appropriate to stop and consider carefully the general philosophy of building design to see which objectives are important in light of modern problems.

For example, industrial psychologists more and more stress the importance of proper working conditions as a means of maintaining employee morale at a high level.

It has been proven conclusively that the type of working conditions under which an employee must spend half his

Figure 2  
WINDOW WALLS—Floor-to-ceiling windows of "Thermopane" glass in aluminum casings are an outstanding feature of the Fenton central office building. A large planting area at left is an integral part of the structure and balances the large window area. Roof slab projects over windows to provide shade from hot summer sun. Exterior walls are cinder-block and buff-colored face brick.





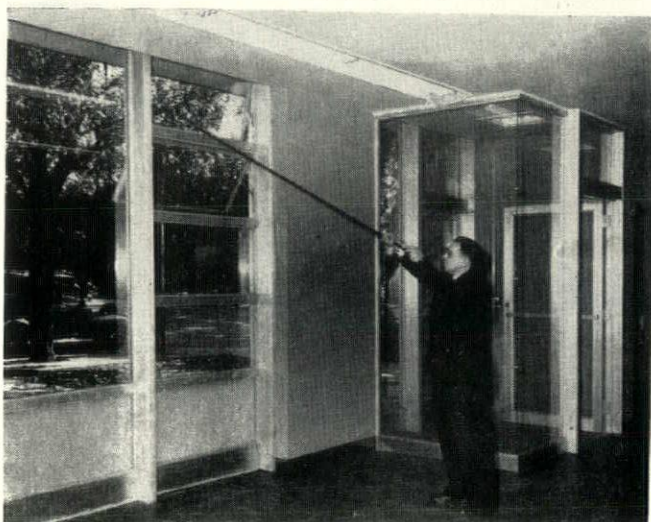


Figure 3

**AWNING-TYPE**—Ventilation for the Fenton telephone building is provided by awning-type panes flanking the fixed central window areas. A glass-enclosed vestibule prevents drafts yet does not destroy the effect of spaciousness. Floors are covered with asphalt tile.

waking time has more bearing on his outlook and attitudes, particularly toward management, than do wages.

As one engineer put it, "How can you expect men to work in noisy, dirty, congested, poorly lighted and ventilated surroundings and expect them to feel that management has their interests at heart?"

The Bell System has recognized the importance of good working conditions for years. Experience has shown that there is a definite relationship between working conditions and quality of service. The better the conditions the better the service.

There always is room for improvement, however, and these improvements may well be in the principles which govern contemporary or functional architectural style.

While exploring the possibilities of modern design, the telephone company has by no means abandoned the well established traditional styles, many of which will be in good taste forever. Many small communities simply do not lend themselves to other than traditional designs, and the pattern of such communities should be respected.

With the possible exception of men's clothes, probably no other human endeavor is so firmly anchored to established practices or so thoroughly stylized as commercial construction.

Certainly, if modern design is but a style instead of a philosophy, we may give it but passing attention since it would be just another "period" style. If, however, modern design permits the realization of our new objectives more economically and more effectively than traditional styles, good engineering demands it be given consideration.

If now is the proper time to overhaul our ideas on building design, we might start by listing some of the im-

portant factors which should have our attention when we develop a new building philosophy.

Careful records reveal the startling fact that over a normal service life of about 40 years, the initial cost of a building represents barely one-third of the total cost of the building.

Both repair costs and house service costs may each equal the original investment.

Minimizing repairs and effecting maximum house-service efficiency, therefore, should be objectives dictating the design of any commercial building and the selection of materials. Ordinarily, the initial investment in a building has almost always been the dominant interest that dictated design.

Simple fenestration, simple interiors, and the emphasis on color and texture instead of ornamentation should simplify janitorial routines greatly.

With building cost indexes rising above the 200 per cent level and operating costs skyrocketing, what possibilities do modern designs offer in combatting these.

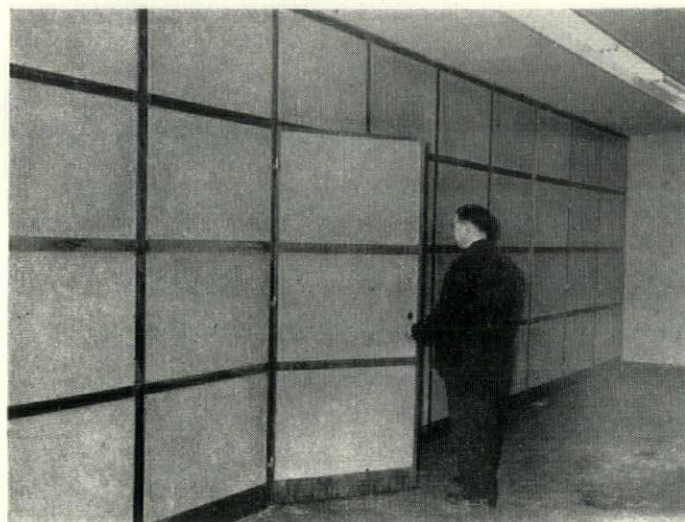
Many economies are so obvious that they can hardly be ignored. The discarding of cornices, balustrades and other ornamental gingerbread helps eliminate the major elements of structural repair.

The premium paid for gabled roofs, huge cornices, special stone and terracotta trim, cantilevered structural members and other frills necessary to achieve period designs can easily mean a 20 per cent premium in structural cost as compared with economies in the simplicity which features contemporary design.

Many of the finest examples of modern interior design are found in merchandising spaces and institutions, for the obvious purposes of maximum eye

Figure 4

**ACOUSTIC TREATMENT**—Inasmuch as both the floor and ceiling slabs of the Fenton telephone building contain radiant heating coils, acoustic treatment is provided by nailing perforated asbestos sheet-rock panels over a hard-wood frame. This forms the back wall of the public office.



appeal and attraction. Some of the best expressions of our contemporary art probably are invested in the superb interiors of high-class stores, clubs and institutions, rather than in the more conventional means of expressing art.

Complete summer-winter air conditioning, full acoustic treatment and high-level fluorescent lighting seem destined to become standard treatment in institutional designs.

One of the outstanding possibilities in achieving economics in use of modern lighting, sound-proofing, and air conditioning is in the manner in which building interiors are treated.

Building interiors should be considered as one open space with a continuous acoustic ceiling, continuous strips of fluorescent lighting and an air conditioning system which serves the whole space as a unit.

Room partitions necessarily would be less than ceiling height, possibly limited to seven or nine feet.

By eliminating reverberation and destroying the identity of the noise level, the full acoustic ceiling above the open-topped partitions provide necessary privacy within the partitioned space.

Clear, glass partitions retain a sensation of spaciousness by giving clear sight to the bounding walls. Where complete privacy is desired, the flush-steel wall would seem ideal.

While these may equal conventional plastered partitions in first cost, the elimination of wet construction, simplification of erection and complete salvagability in the event of rearrangements would seem to be factors that cannot be ignored merely because of a desire for conventional surfaces.

The creation of structures of maximum durability and good appearance always is the objective of the telephone engineer for there is coming a day when



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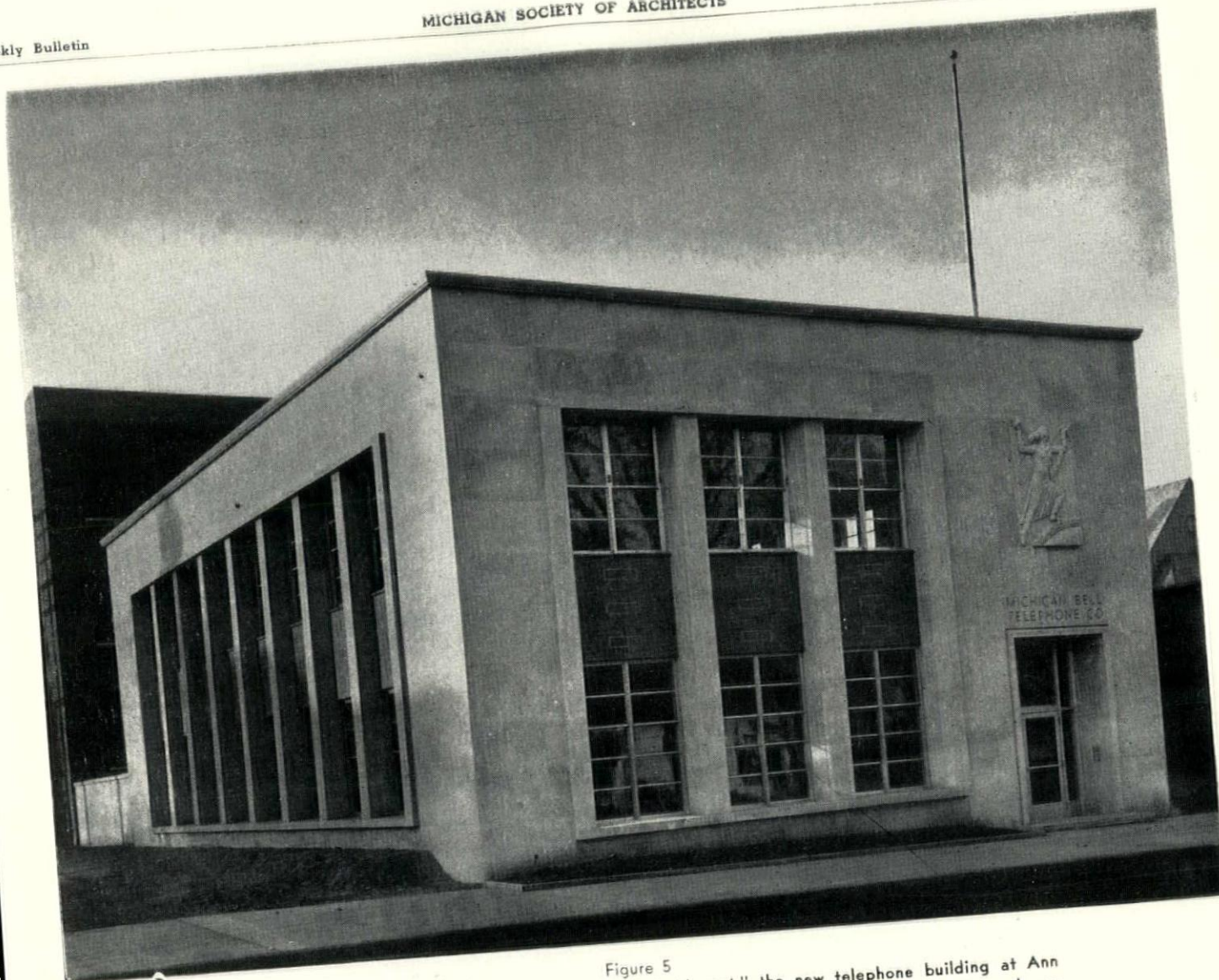


Figure 5

**NEW ANN ARBOR OFFICE**—Designed "from the inside out," the new telephone building at Ann Arbor is essentially a hollow shell with clear-spanning floors. The elimination of interior columns permits a completely flexible arrangement of desks and partitions. Note the use of bas-relief carving over front entrance to provide eye-balance and break up horizontal and vertical planes.

the disposal of large, dilapidated and out-moded buildings will be a real problem.

While only a major operation will salvage the vast areas of obsolete buildings that plague communities, there is little excuse for continuing to build what will be tomorrow's distress areas.

To overcome this slow paralysis requires adherence to two basic principles.

First, don't wedge a large building onto the smallest possible lot, but use the lot as a means of spacing the structure from adjacent property.

Second, make the basic structure as durable as possible. If the basic structure is sound, a building can be modernized many times and continue indefinitely as a profitable investment instead of becoming a derelict that destroys its own and surrounding property values.

This philosophy is in complete contrast to the practice of buying the smallest possible piece of land, building to the lot line, and making the

framework and enclosing walls as cheaply as "the law will permit."

As a method of illustrating these lessons which the telephone company has learned after many years of experience let's take a few examples which also show the consideration of special construction problems that make telephone buildings so different from other structures.

The first important construction effort after the war was undertaken at Fenton. Equipment there was housed in leased, second-floor quarters. Hundreds of people in the small community near Flint were waiting for service.

Although the urgency of more space was no more pressing at Fenton than at dozens of other communities, a building was started there because of circumstances which favored the kind of a structure that could be built.

Conventional building materials were at a premium so the structure had to be constructed largely of non-priority materials. This meant no wood, nails,

common brick, structural tile, plaster, radiators, asphalt shingle roofing, and a minimum of electrical wiring and house-type plumbing.

This dictated an all-masonry building, radiant heating, concrete slab roof, and simple design for fast construction. It became evident that contemporary architectural style would best lend itself to this problem.

Inasmuch as Fenton already had several fine examples of contemporary style buildings and ranch-type homes, another building along the same lines would not be out of place.

Accordingly, a one-story, basement-less structure with walls of buff-colored brick backed up by cinder blocks, a concrete slab roof, radiant heating and large "window-walls" was designed and built. (See Figures 1 and 2).

A gently sloping site located in a

(See **ROBSON**, Page 10)



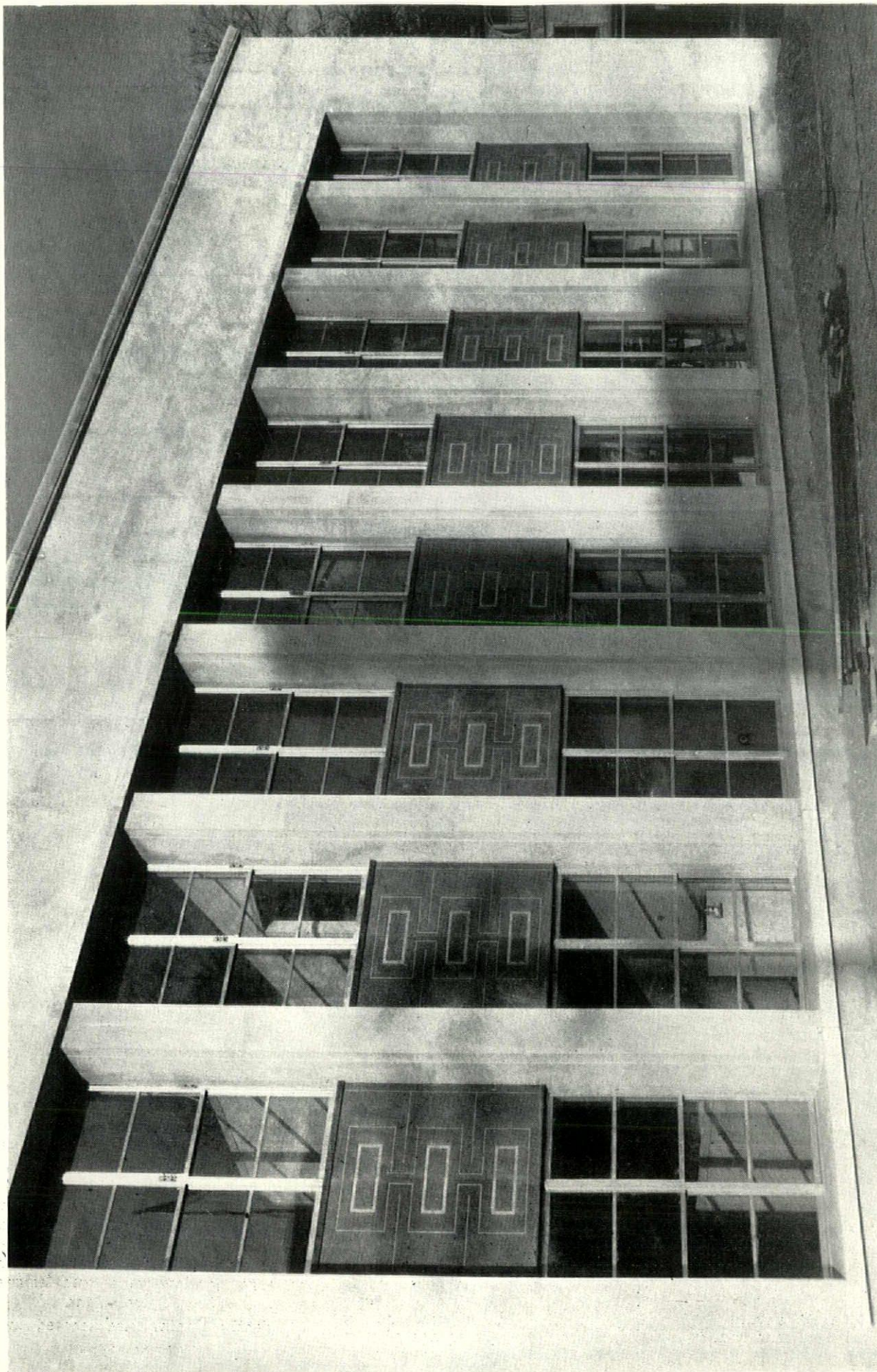
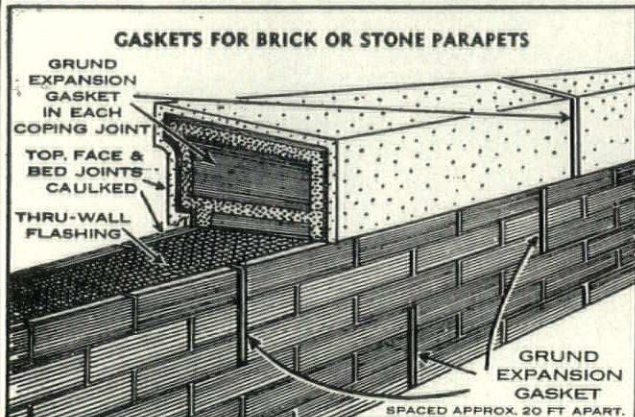


Figure 6

**DRAMATIC FENESTRATION**—Spandrels of dark, olive-black marble tend to blend with the fenestration rather than with the exterior skin of white limestone. This makes the columns stand out boldly. Although this treatment marks the building as completely contemporary, the columnar effect suggests classic Greek. Window casings are of aluminum. Insulating "Thermopane" is used throughout. The building is framed for a third story.



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## Robson, (Continued from Page 7)

shaded, residential neighborhood just a block off the main street made a special landscape plan desirable.

In conformity with the usual practice in contemporary design calling for landscaping, a large planting area at the left of the building was made an integral part of the structure. It also served as a means of balancing the large windows at the right.

The casings of the window-walls are of aluminum, and glass areas are of insulating "Thermopane." Ventilation is provided by awning-type panes flanking the fixed central window area. (See Figure 3).

A glass-enclosed vestibule prevents drafts in the public office yet does not destroy the effect of spaciousness.

A night-light and deposit box at the main entrance are for the convenience of customers who are unable to visit the office during regular hours.

In order to obtain sufficient heating area it was necessary to install both a floor and ceiling panel.

Since it also was desired to obtain



Figure 7

**ACOUSTIC CEILING**—A patented plaster with a granulated cork base provides sound-proofing for all ceilings in Ann Arbor office. Fluorescent lighting is a continuous strip recessed in ceiling.

acoustical treatment, a sound-deadening area was constructed on the side wall opposite the windows.

The problem was converted into an opportunity to design an unusual decorative treatment. The wall was constructed of perforated asbestos sheet-rock panels attached to a hardwood frame and backed up with glass wool. The frame is stained, but the asbestos is shellacked and left in the natural grey color. (See Figure 4.)

Strip fluorescent lighting and asphalt tile are features in the main, business office portion of the building.

Inasmuch as the Fenton central office houses only local dial equipment in the rear portion of the building, quarters for switchboards and operators is not necessary. Long distance service over direct lines to Flint is provided by operators there.

In the equipment space, the underside of the roof slab is the ceiling. The additional height needed for the dial switching apparatus is obtained by dropping the floor slightly below that of the front office space, taking advantage of the sloping site.

An interesting side-light regarding some of the special construction efforts is the manner in which adverse weather conditions were overcome.

To meet the service date for cut-over of new equipment, the rear portion of

(See **ROBSON**, Page 13)



Figure 8

**DEMOUNTABLE PARTITIONS** — Flush steel partitions seven feet high are used throughout the Ann Arbor structure. The partitions are demountable to permit flexibility and salvagability. Electric outlet plugs or switches can be cut into hollow vertical sections. Clear or frosted glass in some partitions transmits natural light.



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## Robson, (Continued from Page 10)

the building had to be built during the coldest part of winter.

A large, two-story tent was built of structural timbers and canvas. The interior space was heated with army-type gasoline burners. Construction of the building inside started on a day when it was eight degrees below zero and a forty-mile per hour wind blowing. There was no interruption of work and the service deadline was met.

After the Fenton building was well under way, Michigan Bell tackled another interesting problem of space at Ann Arbor with a view of applying modern architectural principles to its solution.

Ann Arbor is a large, university town with a high telephone development. It also is the administrative headquarters for the local exchange and the district headquarters for nearby exchanges.

Consequently, the present three-story central office building is overcrowded with clerical and other non-operating personnel and facilities. Studies indicated that all the floor space within the existing building was required for operating equipment.

The solution seemed to be construction of another building expressly for office and administrative purposes.

This decision afforded an opportunity to explore the possibility of designing a strictly functional structure and of achieving an interior arrangement which it is felt warrants consideration in office-type buildings.

The first problem in designing this type of building was that of permitting a completely flexible desk arrangement unhampered by interior columns.

This difficulty was overcome by making the proposed building a hollow shell with clear-spanning floors.

The second problem was that of permitting a completely flexible office arrangement.

This was solved by using, almost exclusively, seven-foot glass and steel partitions.

With these general specifications, detailed engineering and designing along functional lines had a good start.

The exterior style, as is customary with most telephone buildings, had to harmonize with surrounding structures.

The largest building near the site is the Ann Arbor News building of recent design. A style therefore was selected which would compliment and harmonize with the News building. (See Figure 5.)

The dominant feature of the new telephone building is the use of a spandrel window treatment. Deeply recessed spandrels of dark, olive-black marble which tend to blend with the fenestration, rather than with exterior skin of white limestone, allow the column effect to stand out in bold relief. (See Figure 6.)

Simple lines and dramatic fenestration mark the building at once as a

(See ROBSON, Page 15)



Figure 9

**Q-DUCTS**—Floors of the Ann Arbor building are of concrete over a steel, cellular deck. Called "Q-Ducts," the steel deck serves as a race-way for telephone and electrical wiring. Outlets can be located anywhere in the building within a two-foot radius. Floor-covering is of 1/8-inch sheet rubber.

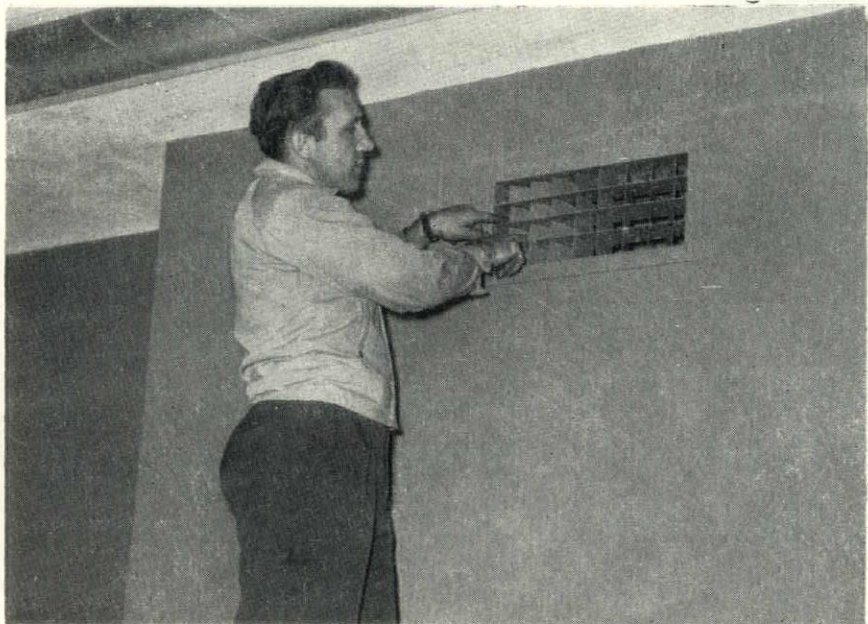


Figure 10

**HIGH-VELOCITY HEATING**—The unique, high-velocity heating system of the Ann Arbor office requires only a single, small outlet to serve a space of 17,000 cubic feet. Note the directional-fins which break up the high-velocity air-stream into a large fan-shaped pattern. Boiling action of air gives rapid, uniform heat distribution.



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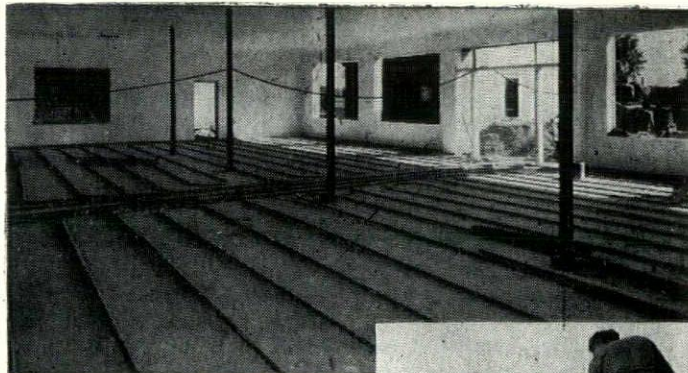
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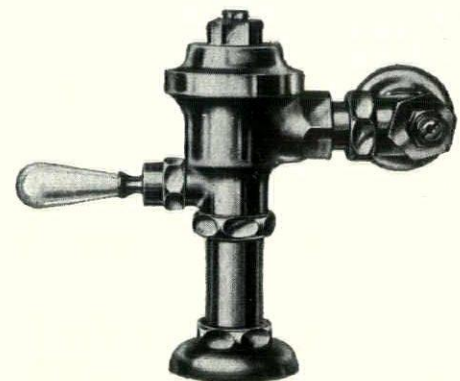
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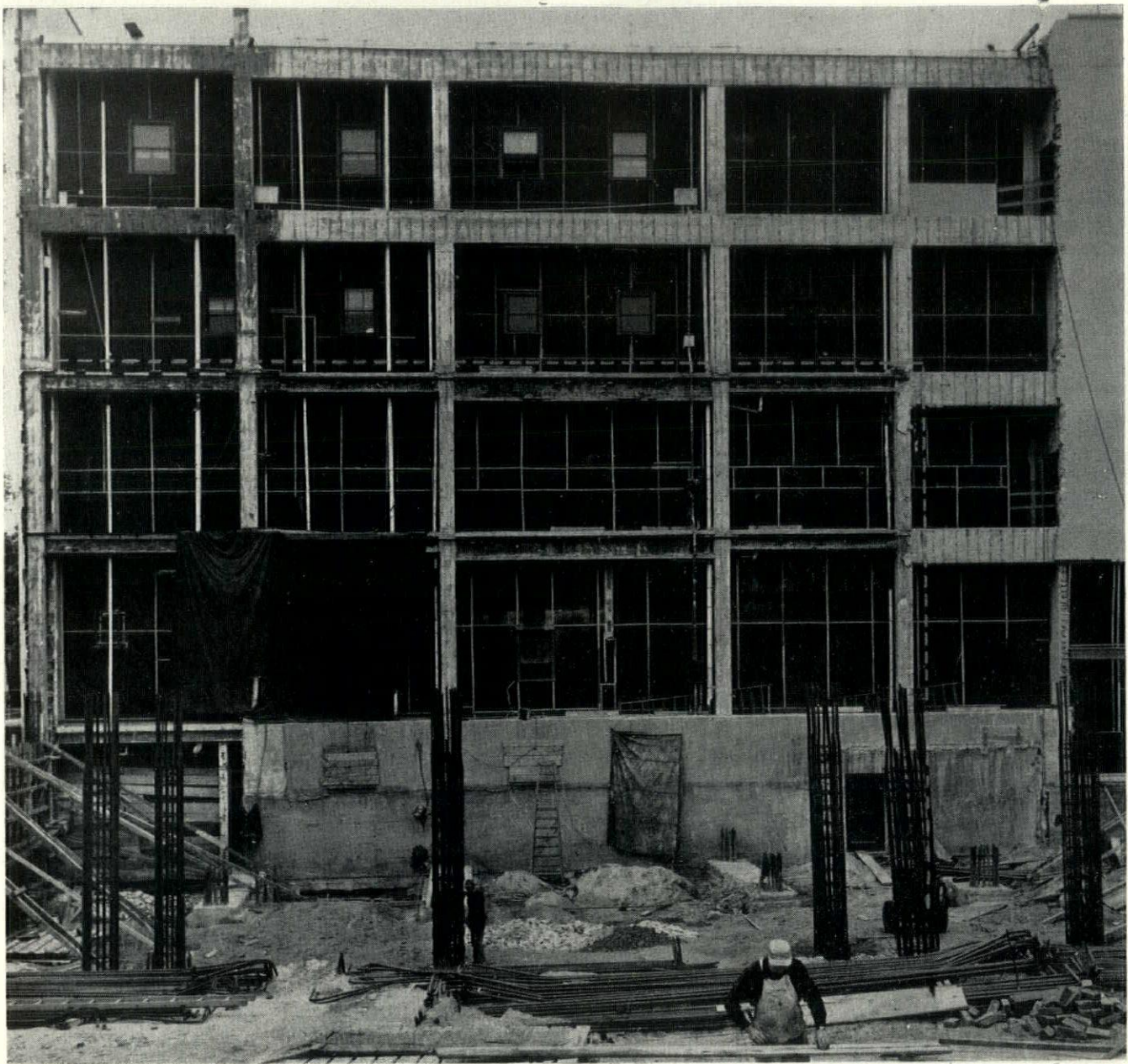


Figure 11

**ABILITY TO EXPAND**—Dotted line indicates the original two-story central office building at Royal Oak. In 1942, the structure was widened 40 feet and a third and fourth story added. Unprecedented, war-time growth of the Royal Oak exchange makes a third enlargement necessary. Rearward extension of entire four stories almost will double floor-space. Note improvement of construction method — steel framing has been supplanted by reinforced concrete. Also note the use of cantilevered footings.

## Robson, (Continued from Page 13)

good example of contemporary style, yet the column effect and carving over the front entrance suggest, without making obvious, the timeless traditions of classical Greek.

As in the Fenton building, insulating "Thermopane" and aluminum casings for windows and doors are features of the Ann Arbor structure.

Acoustic plaster on all ceilings help control reflected noise. High-level fluorescent lighting fixtures are recessed into the ceiling. Each floor is treated as a single space for lighting purposes

and all electrical switches are grouped at one spot. (See Figure 7.)

The sectional steel partitions are fully paneled or have clear glass inserts. The sections are demountable to allow for future rearrangement. Vertical columns of the partitions are hollow and serve as excellent race-ways for electrical wiring. (See Figure 8).

Floors are of concrete over steel cellular flooring so as to provide telephone and electrical outlets anywhere in the building within a two-foot radius. (See Figure 9.)

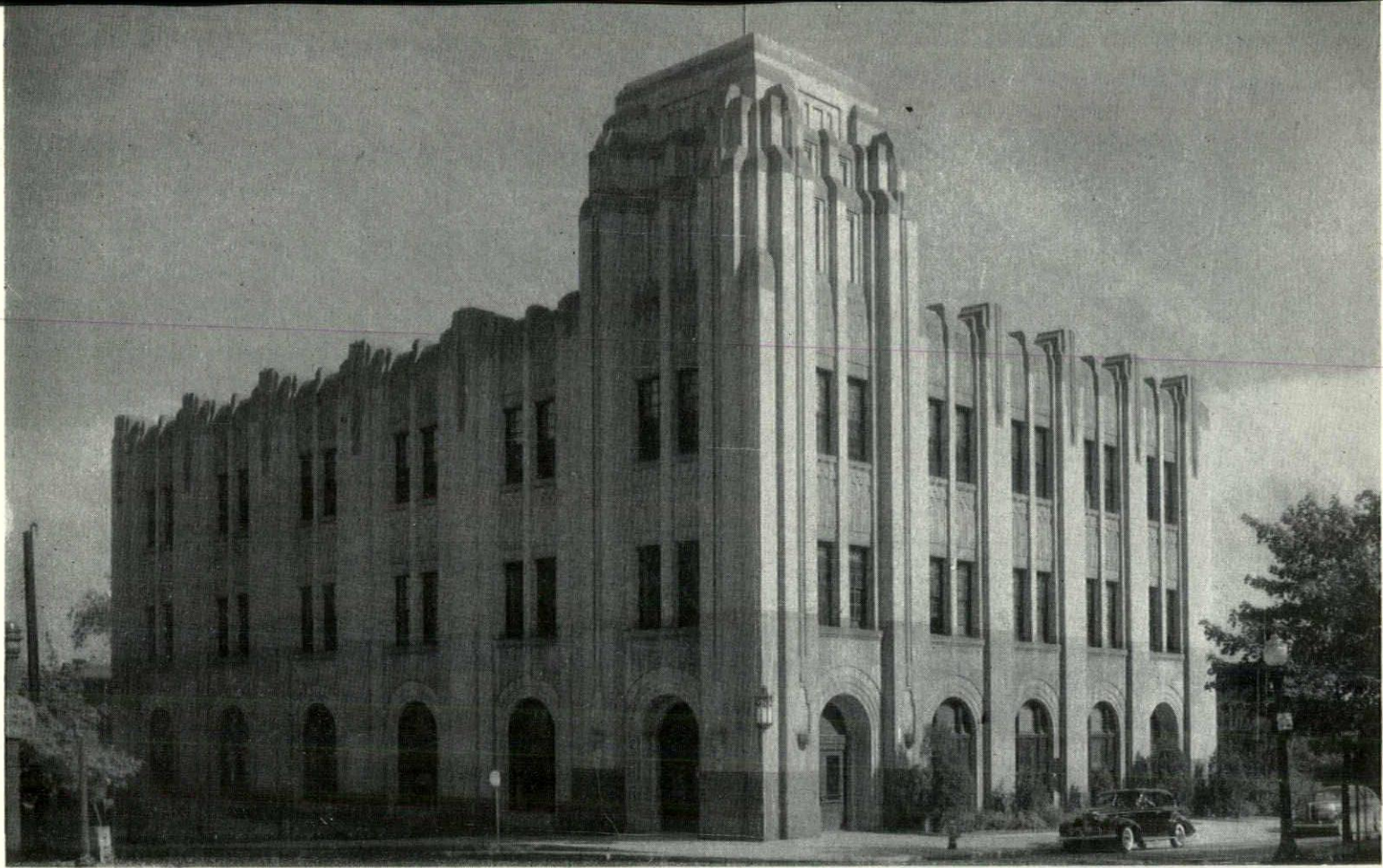
An unusual treatment was afforded the telephone junction boxes and elec-

trical distribution panels. These were located behind full size doors in the outside walls thus making it possible to work at the connections from a standing position. This is convenient for workers and speeds up the rearrangement of electrical or telephone facilities.

Floor covering is of  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch sheet rubber. Not only is this material of long-wearing qualities but the gloss can be restored merely by adding ammonia to the regular mopping water. Waxing is not necessary. This cuts down the service cost and at the same time elim-

See **ROBSON**, Page 17)







## Robson, (Continued from Page 15)

inates slippery, waxed floor surfaces.

Another unusual feature of the building is the complete absence of radiators or any evidence of radiation. A unique high-velocity air heating system is employed which requires only small, inconspicuous inlet grills in each room. The heart of the system is a new type blower which delivers high-velocity air quietly. (See Figure 10.)

Each enclosure in the building is served by a vaned outlet that projects small, high-velocity jets of air parallel to the ceiling. These jets introduce a high level of kinetic energy which causes the air to "boil", as contrasted to the drifts which large volumes of low-velocity air produce. Because all the air is in motion, a very uniform temperature results.

An interesting application of this heating system is the flowing of warm air toward the entrance to combat infiltration of cold air.

This permits the elimination of a vestibule. A single door opens directly onto the sidewalk. A thermostat located just inside the door controls a variable speed motor on the blower which forces the warm air toward the entrance.

Air is conditioned by a centrifugal air washer, operating in principle much like the cyclonic dust-separator. High-pressure water sprays project into the entering air stream. Velocities through

On Facing Page (See Page 16)

### PONTIAC BUILDING, BEFORE AND AFTER—

The Pontiac telephone building as it looks at present is pictured in Figure 12 at the top of the opposite page. Figure 13, at the bottom of the page, shows how the building will look when a fourth story is completed and the entire structure is extended 60 feet to the rear.

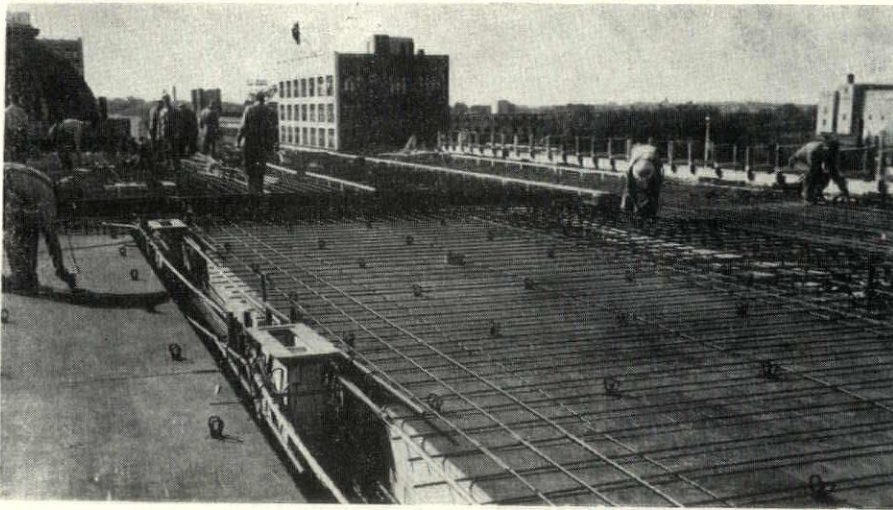


Figure 15

**CEILING INSERTS**—One of many special construction details of telephone buildings is the extensive use of ceiling inserts. These are fixed to the bottom of concrete floor forms. When the forms are removed the inserts are capable of supporting considerable loading on rods threaded into the nuts. Note the unusually heavy reinforcing being laid down.

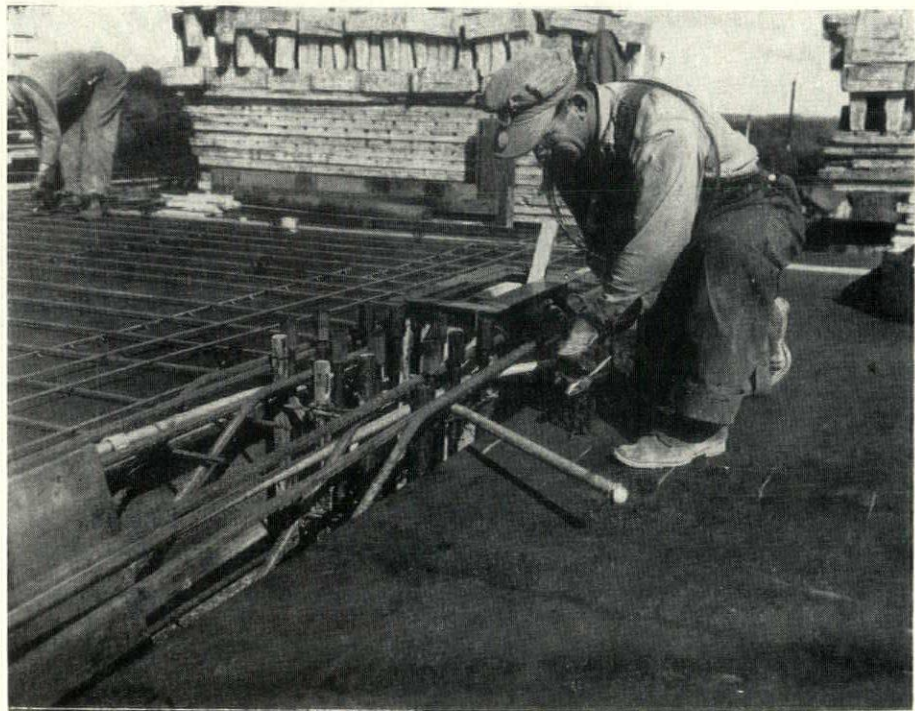


Figure 14

**PROVISIONS FOR FUTURE**—Most telephone buildings are built in ten-year periods with provisions for future growth. The Pontiac building addition currently under way is not expected to be the last. Supporting columns are carried through the roof and capped, as are heating mains, electrical risers, cable ducts and similar facilities.

the washer are so great that there is not sufficient time for saturation. Therefore, the usual objection to air washers should be overcome.

Heating is done by a conventional hot-water blast coil located at the outlet of the air washer.

A considerable advantage of the high-velocity system is that the same air stream is equally effective for summer cooling without changing the air deliveries.

Refrigeration of the water in the washer is all that is required for summer conditioning. In this case, the water temperature is not dictated by the required wet-bulb temperature since the washer does not affect saturation. Only the amount of refrigeration required for sensible cooling need be employed.

A valuable feature of the system is that the return-air inlet need not be at the floor line. In fact, a ceiling return can be used.

The Fenton central office and Ann Arbor commercial office buildings are examples of contemporary style as applied to new structures.

It is possible under certain conditions to apply new principles to all structures.

As has been stated previously, a basically sound building may be renovated and brought up to date, especially if provisions have been made for future increases in size.

The original Royal Oak central office building, built in 1927, was a two-story structure 80 feet wide. Subsequent growth of the community made an enlargement necessary so the building was widened in 1942 to 120 feet, a third and fourth story added and the facade altered to fit into the architectural trend then prevailing at Royal Oak.

Shortly before and during the war there was heavy growth of industry in the Royal Oak area with attendant population increases. An unprecedented demand for telephone service resulted which put a sudden severe pressure on Royal Oak's telephone system.



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Every square of inch of space was utilized for switchboards and other operating equipment-space which had been engineered for dial switching apparatus.

Before Michigan Bell could continue with the war-delayed installation of dial equipment for the Royal Oak exchange, the central office building had to be enlarged. Therefore, a second major addition to the original building now is underway.

The addition consists of a 60-foot rearward extension of the entire four floors. As can be seen in Figure 11, the two additions will nearly engulf the original structure.

Some persons might wonder at the telephone company's practice of putting up a building in parts.

Experience has shown that it is more economical to build telephone central offices in ten-year periods rather than all at once. The reason for this is that in ten years the cost of maintaining unused space will be greater than additional engineering costs necessary to add the space when needed.

By planning in ten-year periods, subsequent building costs are paid for by those who benefit—the new subscriber. Existing subscribers, in effect, pay only for the buildings and equipment which immediately serve them.

As the Royal Oak addition at this time is to the back, it does not alter the style of the building as did the first addition, but it illustrates the value of pre-engineering for flexibility.

An expansion project currently under way at Pontiac, however, provides a striking example of a strong building's ability to be changed to suit new styles.

Figure 12 shows the Pontiac central office building as it was built in 1929 and as it looked early this year. Figure 13 is an architect's view showing how the building will look when a fourth story is added and the entire structure extended 60 feet to the rear.

Note that the ornamental tower, in good architectural style when built, has been eliminated. The crenelated parapets likewise have been discarded

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and replaced with simple stone work which breaks the severe verticle lines.

Although it is felt that the present addition will care for future growth of the telephone system in Pontiac for at least the next ten years, provisions still are being made for another vertical addition.

Interior columns, footings and foundations in the original structure were designed for an ultimate of six floors. Thus, the columns stub through the roof and heating mains, electrical risers, cable ducts and similar facilities all are terminated in the present upper floor in such a manner as to permit ready extensions vertically. Each roof slab is designed to become a load bearing floor. (See Figure 14.)

Typical of one of the many special design details of telephone buildings is the use of ceiling inserts.

These inserts consist of threaded nuts contained in saddles which splay into the concrete sufficiently to allow considerable loading on rods threaded into the nuts.

These suspension rods carry ladder-trolleys, cable racks and the other in-

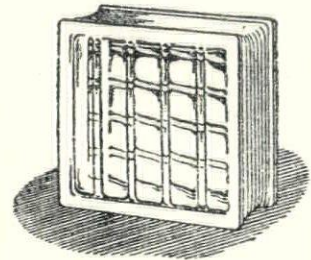
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(Continued from Page 19)

tricate superstructures of telephone equipment.

Inserts are spaced throughout all equipment spaces on five-foot centers and must be precisely positioned. Figure 15 shows an insert being fastened to a form preparatory to pouring the concrete floor slab (in this case, the roof slab).

The Pontiac construction is interesting because the Clinton river flows within its natural banks only 40 feet from the excavation where footings are being poured. The bottom of the excavation is 20 feet below the river bed. Despite this there is no water in the excavation. The river has sealed itself effectively within its banks.

Incidentally, one of the footings for the rearward addition contains 600 yards of concrete. (See Figure 16.)

Several more new telephone buildings have moved from the drawing boards.

Construction of a new central and public office building in Center Line is scheduled to get under way soon. (See Figure 17).

To be of stone and brick construction, large window areas and simple, low lines make the building ideally suited to the growing trend of modern architectural style in the rapidly expanding community of Center Line.

Figure 18 is the designer's rendering of a new central office being erected in Reed City. This central office will contain local dial equipment, "repeater" apparatus which boost voice currents in the main toll cables reaching into northern Michigan, an emergency generator, and a public office.

Here, in a relatively small building, are introduced the problems of flexibility and full provisions for unforeseen growth.

The setback featuring the front elevation also serves to give the equipment space separate structural identity from the public office. The building is framed to take a second floor. Thus, either element can grow independently without interfering with the potential expansion of the remaining part of the building.

Probably the most interesting new building Michigan Bell has under way is an experiment in pure functional design at Cadillac.

Figures 19, 23, and 24 show some of the more striking elevations of this unusual building which is in complete accordance with contemporary architectural principles.

The Cadillac building will be one of the first of its kind in the Bell System.

The structure will be of stone and has been especially designed to harmonize with Cadillac's proposed Civic Center.

As the building was designed "from the inside out," two building masses of unequal height resulted.

The main, two-story structure will house dial equipment, long distance switchboards, and repeater apparatus.

Generous treatment of window space

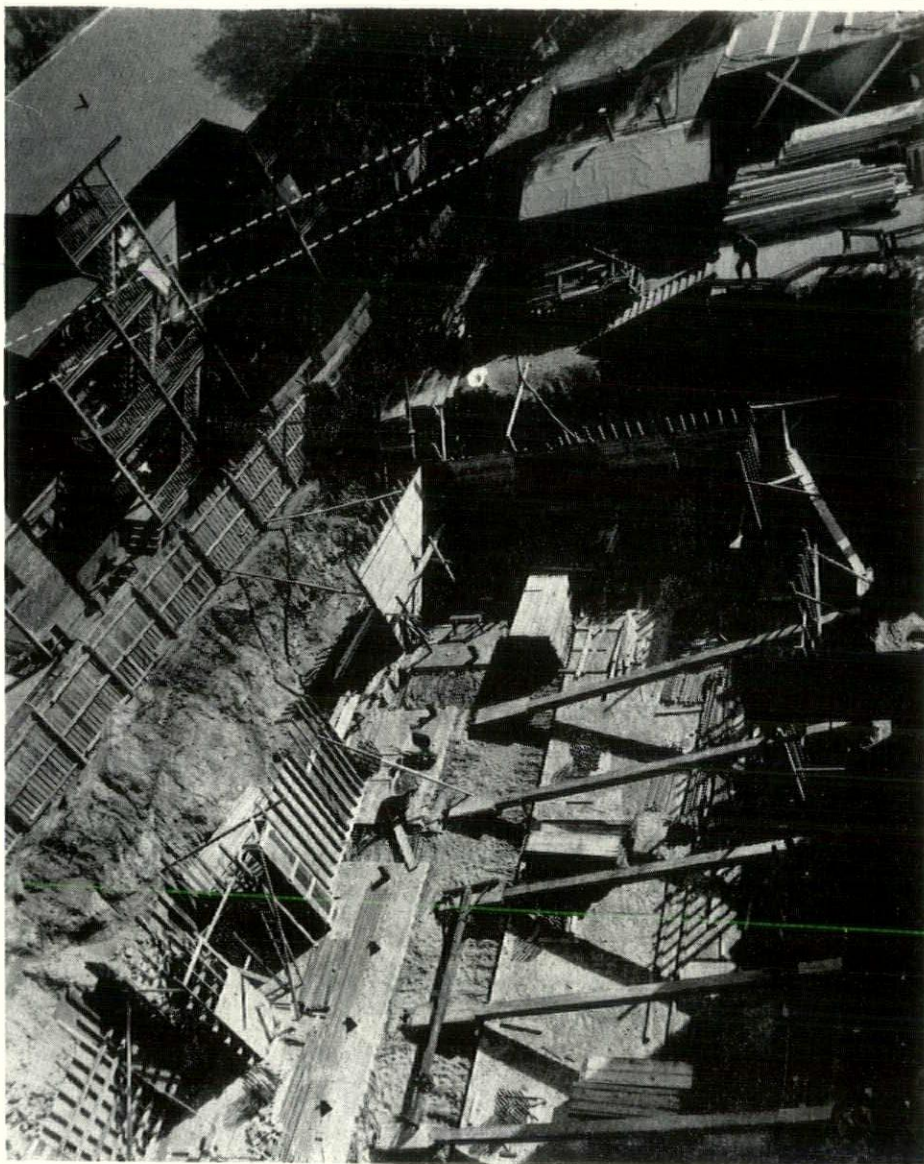


Figure 16

**INTERESTING SIDELIGHTS**—Of interest to building engineers is that the Clinton River flows within its natural banks only 40 feet from the excavation for the Pontiac building addition. Although the bottom of the excavation is 20 feet below the bed of the river, there is no seepage. The stream has effectively sealed itself within its banks. The footing which extends the width of the excavation underneath the shoring contains 600 yards of concrete.

and floor-to-ceiling window-walls will be features of the adjoining, one-story public office.

An innovation with telephone building is the "picture window" across the front of the equipment wing which displays the intricate telephone switching and repeater equipment to public view. A flagged terrace on the outside and in front of the long picture-window invites inspection.

A window setback has been designed to shade the equipment from direct sunlight in summer.

The interior design has been treated with as much care as the exterior.

The public office space has been effectively divided into a waiting room and a working area by dropping the ceiling slightly over the desks to produce a "room without a wall."

This drop also permits the use of cove

lighting in the reception space.

Windows in the public office, as in the rest of the building, have been concentrated on one wall. Tests have proven it is more pleasant to look at a wall than at the glare of a window. The large windows provide the maximum amount of natural light and permit a much more interesting view when the eyes are turned from the wall to the windows.

By extending the windows to the adjoining walls, black shadows are eliminated. All walls, therefore, reflect light and color at approximately the same intensity.

The windows themselves are, in effect curtains of glass. Mullions are small rods in tension to produce greater strength. Windows are "hung" to these mullions.

Of great concern to the architectural  
(Concluded on Page 30)



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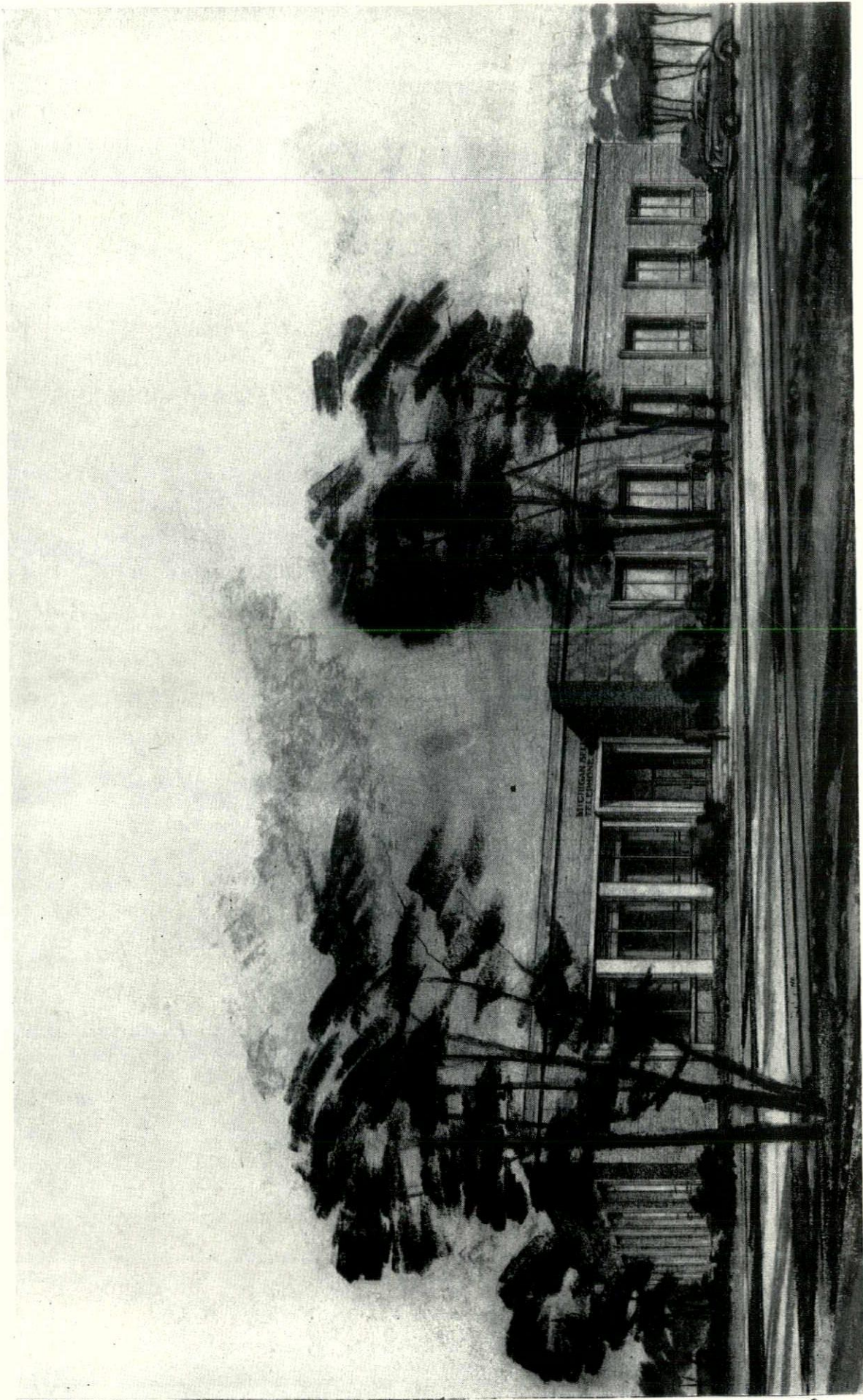
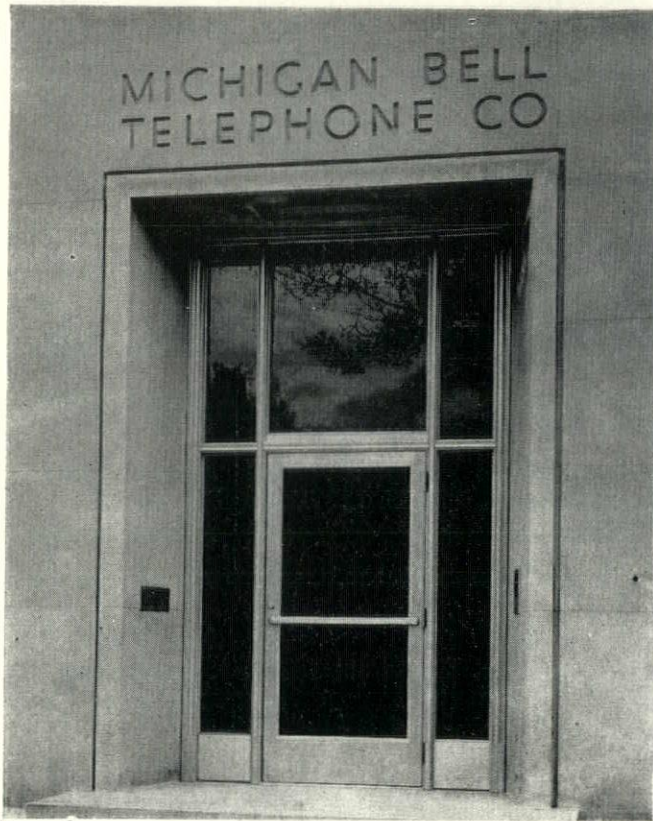


Figure 17

CENTER LINE, MICH.—Michigan Bell's new central office building at Center Line will feature a set-back to give separate structural identity to the public office and equipment spaces. Either unit may expand independently of the other. Long, low lines and large windows carry out contemporary styling.





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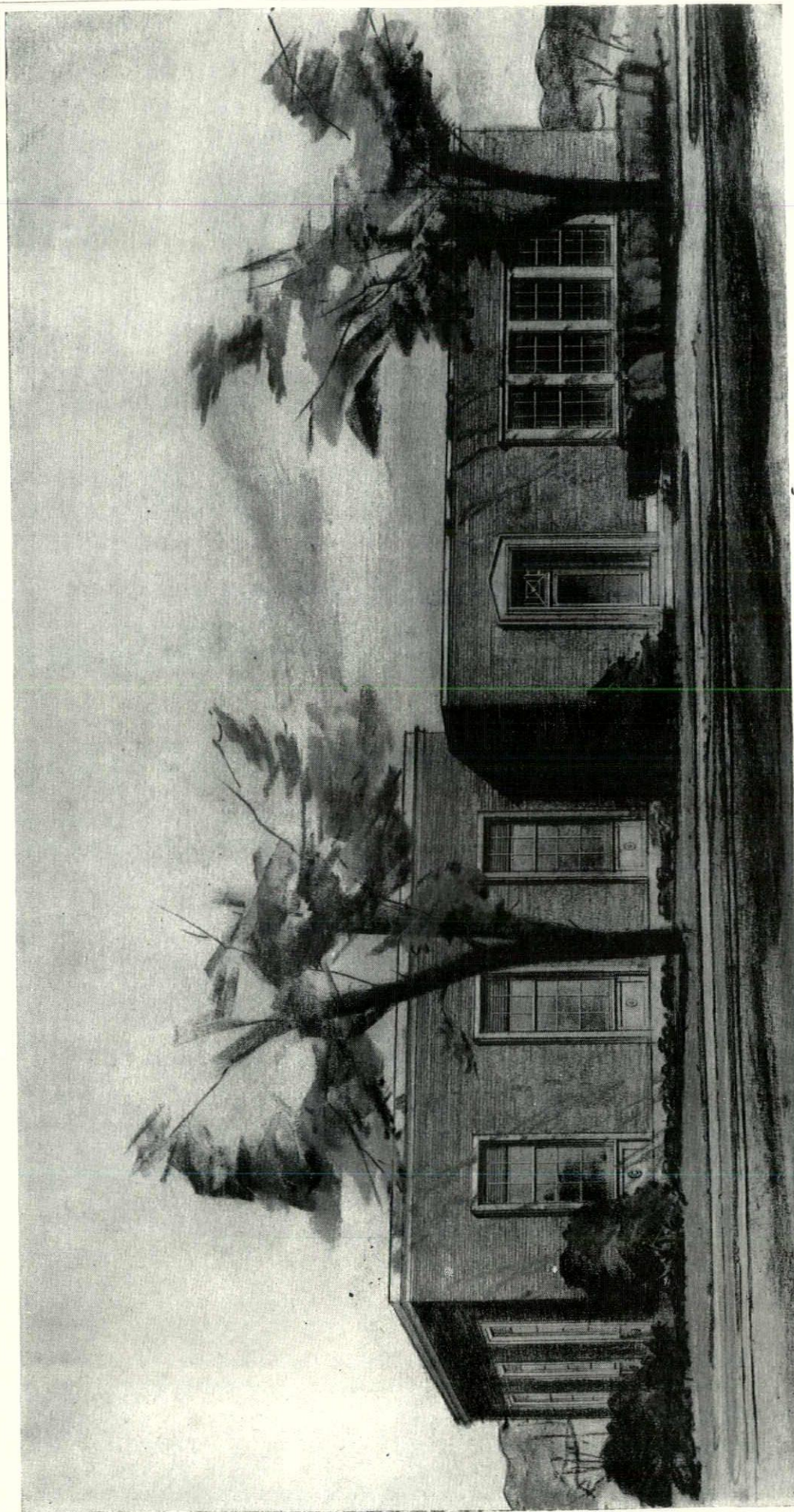
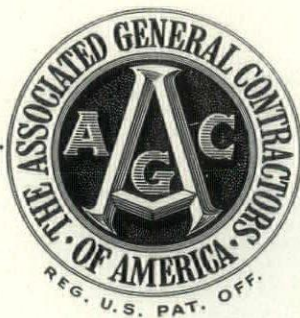


Figure 18

REED CITY, MICH.—New designs are not limited to large buildings. The building being erected at Reed City is a good example of contemporary style architecture for a small community. As in the Center Line structure, the public office and equipment spaces are given separate structural identity. High ceilings, which are necessary for telephone apparatus, are a waste of space in offices. Unequal building masses indicate an "inside-out" design which mark the structure unmistakably for telephone use.





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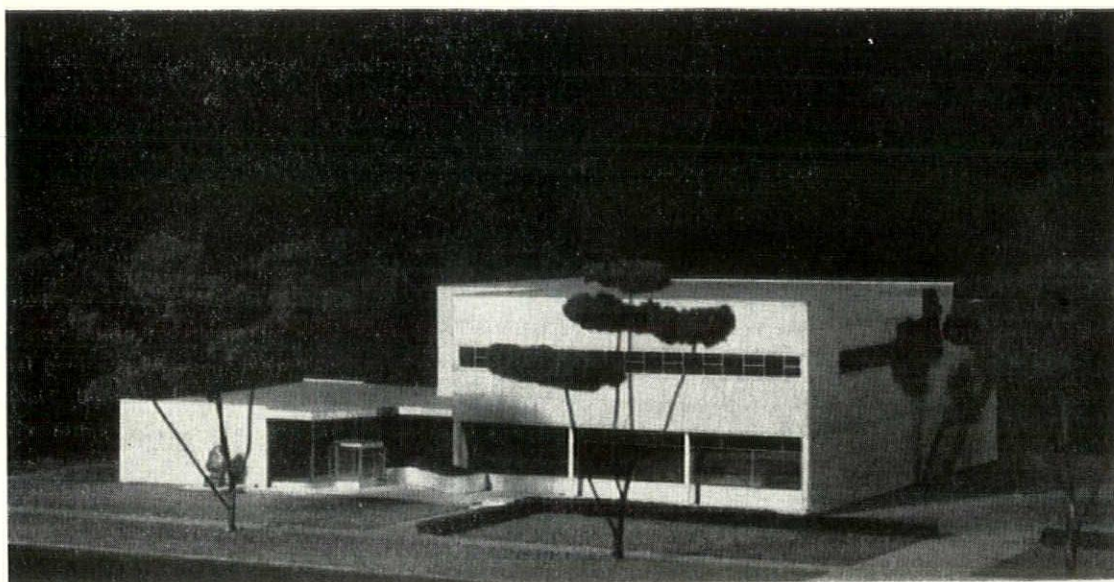


Figure 19

CADILLAC, MICH.—Probably the most completely functional telephone building in the Bell System is being built at Cadillac. Not only are two unequal building masses wedded into a single structure but the difference between each unit amounts to more than a complete floor. Despite severe winters prevalent in the area, large window areas are used throughout the building. Overhangs shade windows in summer.

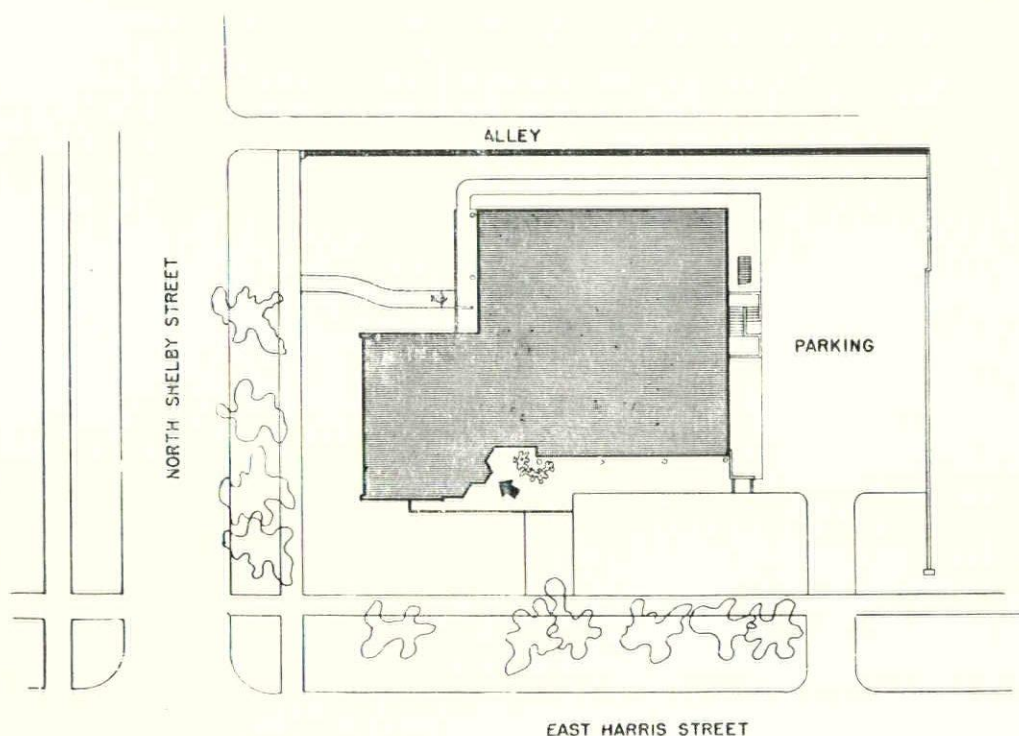


Figure 20

PLOT PLAN—The Cadillac building was so well orientated to the site that only one tree had to be removed. Separate entrances for employees and customers keep front-office traffic to a minimum.

PLOT PLAN



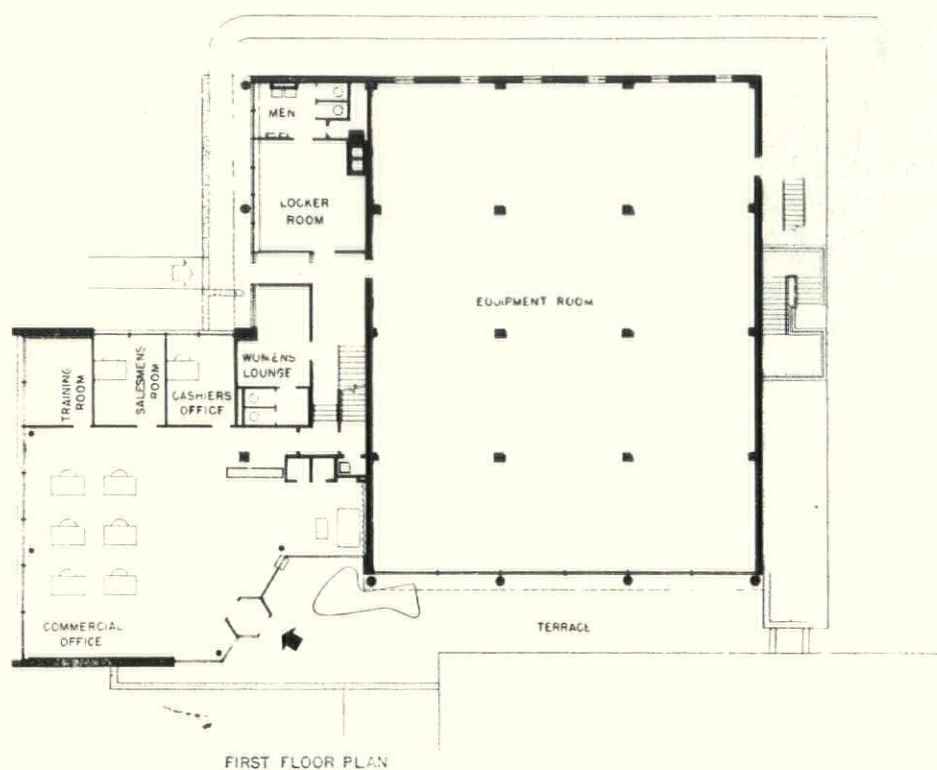
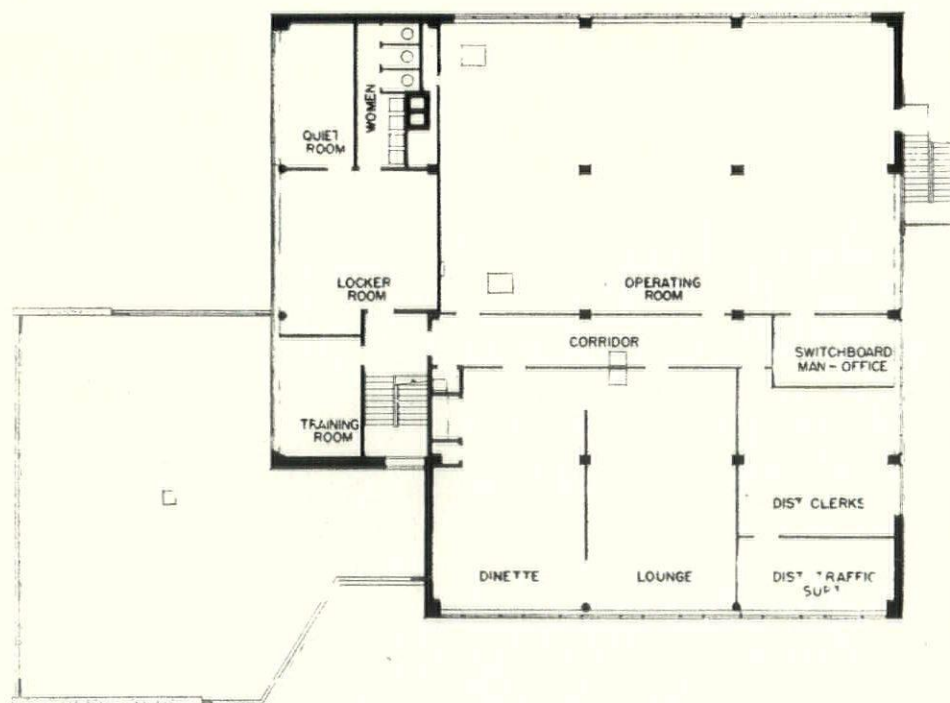


Figure 21

**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**—The public office wing is completely separate from the main equipment space yet plumbing facilities for both are centrally located. Planting areas just outside the main entrance and in the reception alcove carry the line of sight through the large windows.

Figure 22

**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**—The upper floor of the equipment wing is designed so that no space is without an outside window for natural light and ventilation, not even the stair well. Windows are, for the most part, concentrated on one wall to provide for eye rest.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



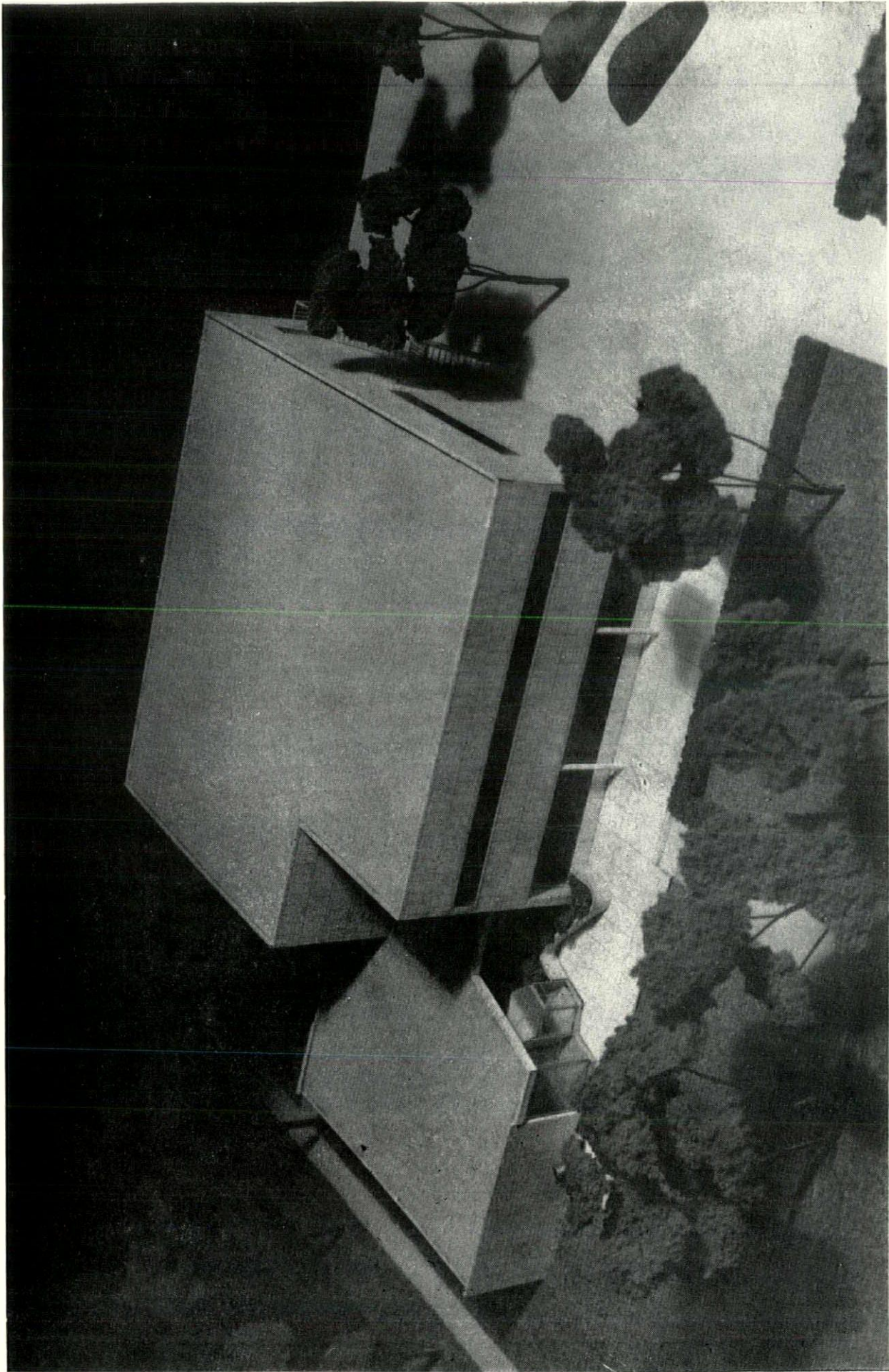


Figure 23

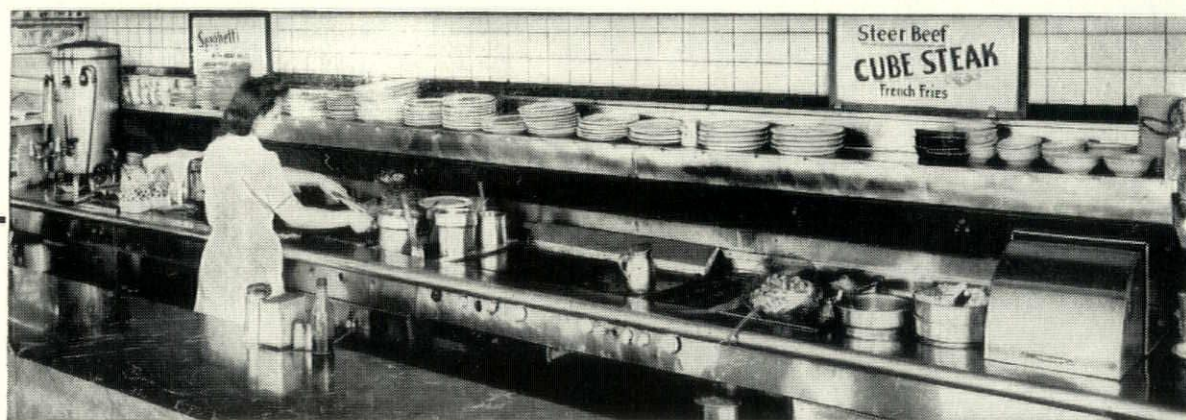
**AERIAL VIEW OF MODEL**—This striking aerial view shows the intimate relationship between the Cadillac building and the surrounding landscape. An innovation with telephone buildings is the large window area on the ground floor which permits an excellent view of the working equipment. A flagged terrace invites visitors to stop and watch the dial apparatus in operation. Windows are hung from suspension rods and are, in effect, curtains of glass.





Figure 24

**SIDE VIEW OF MODEL**—This view portrays the employees' entrance, also with a planting area, and the concentration of window areas at one end of the public office. Concentration of windows have been found to increase office efficiency by cutting down on eyestrain and eliminating corner shadows.



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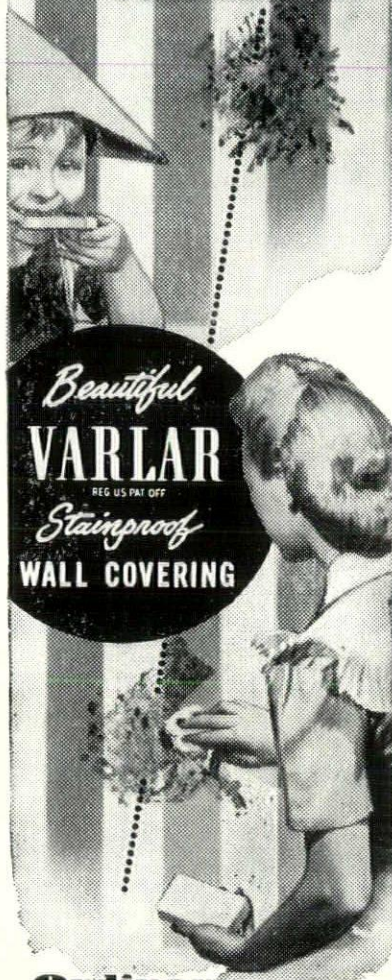
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## ROBSON

Concluded from Pg. 20

designer at all times, of course, is how well carefully-conceived designs will be received by employees and the public who have only casual interest in architecture and consequently are more or less wedded to time-honored conventional style.

Michigan Bell is watching with interest whether some of these new designs help to achieve reduced repair and house service cost. The company also is interested in how its employees and the public will react to these unusual designs.

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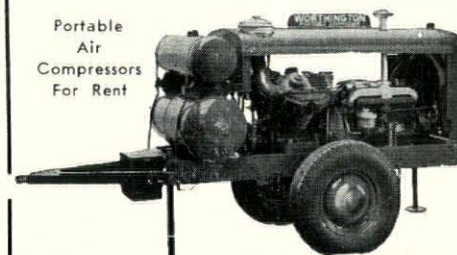
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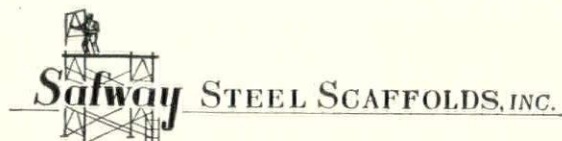
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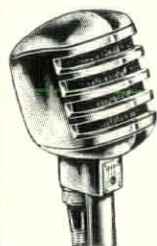
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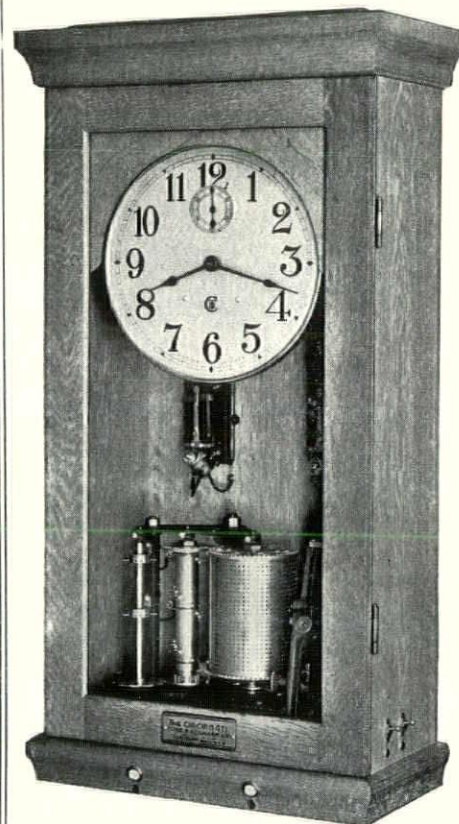
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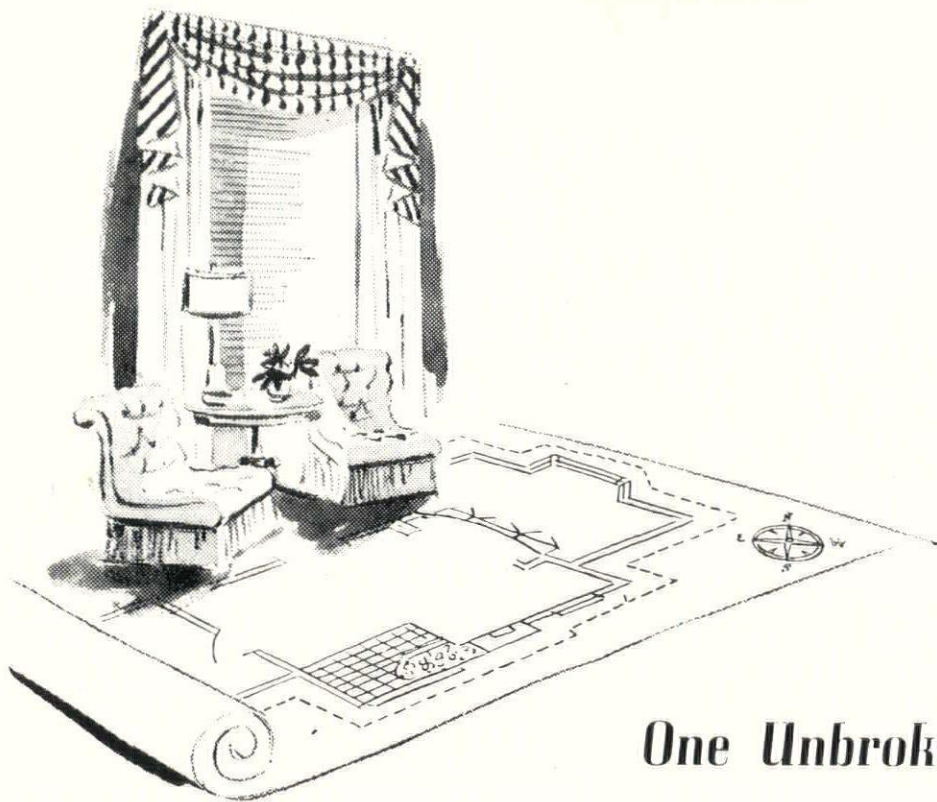
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